





## U.N. chief declines to intervene in Iraqi-Iranian plane dispute

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Kofi Annan's office declined Tuesday to intervene in a dispute over 140 Iraqi aircraft, saying it was up to the Security Council to take a position on what it considers frozen assets.

U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard was responding to a letter from Baghdad Monday asking Annan to help secure the return of more than 140 Iraqi aircraft flown to Iran for safekeeping during the Gulf war.

Iran's letter to Mr. Annan said Iran was making use of the planes and the secretary-general should stress that "the United Nations has no legal objection to their return."

In reply, Mr. Eckhard said "our legal office has no record of having made such a legal position as is described by the Iraqi government."

He said that the Iraqi aircraft were considered part of frozen Iraqi assets under Security Council resolutions, "so it is up to the Security Council to pronounce themselves on any legal obligations to return those planes."

sweeping Security Council economic and arms sanctions since it invaded Kuwait in 1990. A series of resolutions then tightened the sanctions with, among other measures, a freeze on government assets abroad.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf, in his letter, protested "in the strongest terms against the use made by the Iranian government of property that does not belong to it."

He said, "the Iranian authorities have repainted the 115 military aircraft and integrated them into Iranian air force formations, and the 27 Iraqi civil transport aircraft have been distributed to the Iranian civil aviation company and the transport command of the Iranian air force for use in internal transport operations."

Mr. Sahaf did not specifically refer to the circumstances in which the planes were flown to Iran to safeguard them from attack by the United States-led Gulf war coalition but said they had been "entrusted" to Iran in 1991.

Mr. Sahaf also asked Mr. Annan to call on Iran to

## Cook: Saddam misuses money meant to aid Iraqis

UNITED NATIONS (R) — British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said Tuesday Iraq's president had the means to ease the plight of sanctions-hit Iraqi children but preferred to "feather his own nest" and build up his weapons capacity.

He had been asked at a news conference what he was doing to help Iraqi children who were dying for lack of medicine and treatment as a result of sanctions imposed since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Cook, in New York for the U.N. General Assembly, said Britain had supported a Security Council resolution allowing Iraq to export limited quantities of oil to buy humanitarian supplies such as food and medicine.

One of the major reasons the resolution had not been implemented over recent months was because the Iraqi government itself "has procrastinated and delayed the agreements that are necessary for it to take place," he said.

During the same period "President Saddam Hussein has both extended his own palace and has continued with his expensive programme of weapons of mass destruction," Mr. Cook said.

"Saddam Hussein has the resources to feed his people and to provide them with medicine. He chooses to use his money instead to feather his own nest and to provide the capacity for Iraq to threaten the stability of the region," he added.



TOWN UNDER SIEGE: Israeli soldiers stand at a roadblock in the West Bank village of Asira Shamaliya on Wednesday. Palestinians in the town north of Nablus live in fear of retaliation by the Israeli army after four residents were fingered as the bombers in two suicide attacks in Jerusalem. Hours after Israel announced the names of the bombers, troops who have sealed the town since Sunday entered Asira Shamaliya and made pre-dawn raids on four houses (AFP photo)

## Egypt Islamist group says police round up dozens

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood organisation said on Wednesday police had been rounding up dozens of its members in various provinces over the past week.

The group's spokesman Mamoun Hudaihi told Reuters between 70 and 80 university and secondary school students had been detained without charge.

The interior ministry said

police had not arrested anyone and that it did not have information on the Brotherhood claims.

"They have been detaining people over the past week over the whole country. We don't know why. It is a wide operation and it looks like it is the result of general guidelines [by the government]," Mr. Hudaihi said.

"Maybe it's a policy of public terrorism. They do

this occasionally. We no longer ask," he added.

Authorities arrested 34 people suspected of belonging to the Brotherhood in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria in August.

The Muslim Brotherhood is the largest and most influential political Islamist organisation in Egypt. It says it seeks to transform Egypt into an Islamist state through democratic, peace-

ful means, including elections.

But the government maintains the brotherhood is just a face for more violent Islamist groups such as the Gamaa Islamiyah.

Islamists have been fighting the government since 1992 to establish a strict Islamist state. More than 1,000 people, mostly policemen and militants have been killed.

## Rights group urges Iran to stop discrimination

DUBAI (R) — A U.S.-based human rights group Wednesday urged Iran's new president to stop what it said was discrimination against, and in some cases persecution of, certain religious and ethnic minorities.

"Human Rights Watch urges the new government of President Mohammad Khatami to implement enforceable legal safeguards available to all and to root out discrimination on the basis of religion or ethnic origin," the New York-based group said.

In a statement, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the Iranian government had engaged in "the flagrant persecution of religious minorities, notably Baha'is and Evangelical Christians."

Analysts say Evangelical Christians are pressured by Iranian authorities because of the group's activities in converting Muslim Iranians.

Other Christian minorities, such as Armenians and Assyrians, limit their religious activities to their own ethnic groups.

Many senior government and army positions in Iran are limited to Iran's official religion which is Shiite Islam.

"Iran's constitution pro-

vides only qualified commitments to the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of religion or ethnic identity," Hani Megally, executive director of HRW Middle East, said in the statement.

"In practice, these qualified provisions have proved to be no protection against what has become widespread, institutionalised discrimination and, in the case of Baha'is and Evangelicals, outright persecution," Mr. Megally added.

Iran denies discrimination against ethnic groups and recognised religious minorities — Christians, Zoroastrians and Jews — but Tehran does not recognise the Baha'i faith as a religion and considers it "a misleading and wayward sect."

Iran rejects international human rights groups' criticism of its human rights record as politically motivated.

HRW said Baha'i assemblies have been banned since 1983 and participation in Baha'i activities is liable to prosecution.

Baha'is in the U.S. say more than 200 members of their faith have been executed in Iran for their religious belief since the Islamic revolution in 1979.

## Arafat receives Czech president in Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — Czech President Vaclav Havel, on a "symbolic" tour to support the peace process, met Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat in the West Bank town of Bethlehem on Wednesday.

President Arafat greeted Prime Minister Havel at his official residence before the two leaders moved to a Bethlehem hotel for talks, an Agence France Presse correspondent said.

Afterwards Mr. Havel visited the Manger Church, which marks the location

where in Christian tradition Jesus was born and is Bethlehem's main tourist attraction.

Mr. Havel held talks Tuesday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Afterwards he said he was convinced the right-wing leader sincerely seeks peace with the Palestinians.

The Czech leader, whose trip has been described by aides as a "symbolic" effort to help the peace process, has already visited Lebanon and Jordan.

## Iraqis who married girls aged 13 and 14 sentenced to prison in Nebraska

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) — Two Iraqi men who married Iraqi girls aged 13 and 14 in a ceremony in Nebraska arranged by the youngsters' father were sentenced to four to six years in prison Tuesday.

Majed Al Tamimi, 28, and

Latif Al Hussani, 34, were found guilty in July of sexual assault of a child. They could have gotten 50 years behind bars.

In a Nov. 9 Muslim ceremony, the men married a fellow Iraqi refugee's daughters. When authorities found out, the men were arrested. The mini-

mum age for getting married in Nebraska is 17.

The case has been portrayed by some as a clash between Nebraska law and the customs of another culture. Lawyers for the two men said they had no idea they were breaking the law and were simply following

their custom. They will have to serve at least two years before becoming "eligible" for parole.

Both refugees of the Gulf war, Al Tamimi and Al Hussani emigrated to Lincoln more than a year ago.

## U.S. to send two B-1 bombers to Bahrain for mock bombing

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. is sending two B-1 bombers to Bahrain this month, staging a mock bombing run in Kuwait on the way, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

The late September deployment of the two bombers and two KC-135 tanker planes from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho is meant to demon-

strate the air force's ability to project power globally, the Pentagon said.

"It is intended to ensure that our forces are prepared to respond to potential threats to U.S. or coalition interests," it said in a statement.

On the way to Bahrain, the bombers will conduct a simulated bombing run at Kuwait's Udairi range, the

Pentagon said.

Once in the Gulf, they will conduct additional training flights in Kuwait and Bahrain.

The bomber deployment coincides with the deployment to Bahrain of an expeditionary force of about 20 F-15 and F-16 fighters from the same air force unit, the 366th Composite Wing.

## Dozens of Israelis get illegal kidney transplants in Turkey, paper reports

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Dozens of Israelis have travelled to Turkey this year to obtain transplants of kidneys purchased illegally from Turkish donors, the Haaretz newspaper reported Wednesday.

The kidneys are purchased for prices ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and the transplant operation itself costs around \$150,000, plus \$20,000 for

Israeli doctors who accompany the patients, the newspaper reported.

The transactions, which Haaretz said take place in hospitals remote from Istanbul, are in violation of Turkish law which prohibits the purchase of organs.

Haaretz said about 50 Israelis had obtained kidney transplants in Turkey so far this year.

Israeli doctors estimate that there are currently about 2,000 Israeli patients awaiting kidney transplants but that only about 80 receive new organs each year.

Among patients in need of the procedure, around 10 per cent will die from kidney failure if they do not receive a new organ within a year.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 .....Ovide and the Gang  
14:30 .....The New Fred and Barney  
15:00 .....America's Funniest People  
15:30 .....He Shoots He Scores  
16:30 .....Shingalana  
17:00 .....French Programmes  
19:00 .....News in French  
19:15 .....French Programmes  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 .....Trivial Pursuit  
20:00 .....Parenthood  
20:30 .....Lois and Clark — Superman  
21:10 .....Kung Fu  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 .....Feature Film  
23:15 .....Step By Step  
23:59 .....End of TX.

### PRAYER TIMES

04:03 .....Fajr  
05:21 .....(Sunrise) Duha  
11:27 .....Dhuhr  
14:54 .....Asr  
17:34 .....Maghreb  
18:51 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweilheh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armanian International Church Tel. 5516245  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Temperatures are expected to drop slightly with moderate weather conditions prevailing and winds northwesterly moderate to active. On Friday, there will be a gradual rise in temperatures. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Amman .....16/27  
Aqaba .....21/32

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Deserts .....14/30  
Jordan Valley .....20/32  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 29, Aqaba 33 Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 46 per cent.  
NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Khaled Iusluq .....757253  
Dr. Naser Ibrahim .....830432  
Dr. Wafiq Qudmani .....893542  
Dr. Bahjat Bader .....832642  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....778336  
Al Asena pharmacy .....637055  
Naioukh pharmacy .....623672  
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
Yacoub pharmacy .....644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660  
Najib pharmacy .....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Ghazi Ta'anneh .....250080  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Nabhan .....995743  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....637111  
Civil Defence Department .....661111

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Husseini Medical Centre

### Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

630341  
Civil Defence Emergency .....199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Department .....630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs .....661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority .....815615  
Electric Power Company .....636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:05 .....Sanau (RJ)  
08:45 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
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21:50 .....Cairo (RJ)

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.  
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

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11:15 .....Amsterdam



## Queen Noor visits Karak schools, tourism project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday toured the governorate of Karak, where she visited several Ministry of Education schools and the tourism project at the Karak Citadel, according to a press release Wednesday.

As a follow-up to their Majesties visit to Karak last June and as part of Al Iim Noor Student Relief programme, Queen Noor inspected the facilities of the schools in Ariba, Abu Traba, Al Aliyah, Al Mughayyar, and Mas'ar villages, the statement read.

Queen Noor expressed her appreciation and gratitude to everyone who contributed to Al Iim Noor Student Relief Fund, which was established last year to ensure that all students in the Kingdom are given the opportunity to complete their education. Al Iim Noor Student Relief Fund, supported by contributions from Jordanians each year on the Queen's birthday, donated laboratory equipment and will support the education of impoverished children in these schools, the statement continued.

According to the Minister of Education Munther Masri, the annual budget of the ministry cannot address all the needs of the country's schools, particularly in supplying them with laboratory equipment, library books, and fees. Therefore, Al Iim Noor Fund, in cooperation with the ministry, is helping in providing many of the required needs, the press release read.

Dr. Masri added that as a result of the Queen's visit to the Ma'an governorate schools last week, the ministry has embarked on a comprehensive maintenance of the school buildings and their facilities.

Queen Noor concluded her visit by inaugurating an exhibition of handicrafts by charitable organisations in the governorate and inspecting the Ministry of Tourism's development project for Karak. The project, which is funded by the World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), includes conserving the historic sites of the city, in particular the citadel, converting the path linking the citadel with the old city centre into a stone-paved pedestrian street for tourists, and restoring an old municipality building to house a visitors centre, a handicrafts centre, and a restaurant, the statement said.

The Karak Citadel, completed in 1142, is considered to be the most impressive in the line of Crusader castles that dot the landscape from Turkey to southern Jordan. The Karak project is part of a ten-year national strategy for tourism, prepared by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities with the assistance of the World Bank, that will support the growth of competitive, sustainable, and environmentally-sound tourism, the press release continued.

Senator Leila Sharaf, Dr. Masri, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji, Noor Al Hussein Foundation Board of Trustees Member Salwa Damen-Masri, Director of the Department of Antiquities Ghazi Bisheh, and Director of Tourism in Karak accompanied Queen Noor on her visit, the statement concluded.

## Prince Ra'd calls for improved handicapped services

WADI MOUSA (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Bin Zeid Wednesday called for further developing and improving health, social, and special education services for children in Wadi Mousa to cope with the expected changes in the near future.

Addressing a special graduation ceremony organised by the Petra Society for the Handicapped, in cooperation with several governmental and non-governmental organisations, Prince Ra'd said the number of institutions serving the handicapped has increased from one in 1964 to 112 now.

He added that such institutions are run by thousands of people from the public and private sectors and millions of dinars are spent each year to provide this humanitarian service. However, he noted that only five per cent of the handicapped benefit from these services, mostly in major cities.

"It is sad that a large number of children do not receive proper medical and rehabilitation services," Prince Ra'd said.

At the end of the ceremony, Prince Ra'd presented certificates to 24 volunteers who completed a special course on community-based rehabilitation.

## Programme enables students to supplement environmental knowledge

By Nadia Mukhlis  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Globe Programme, a project of the Friends of the Environment (FOE), was established to bring students, teachers, and scientists from around the world together with the Internet for environmental learning and observation, Rana Naber, Media Committee spokesperson at FOE said.

The teachers representing the Globe schools in the Kingdom will meet on Sept. 25 for a one-day workshop, where each will present a schedule for implementing the programme, Ms. Naber said.

They will be trained to use the Internet, enter data into computers, and register data, she explained.

"They will also attend a lecture on satellite and remote sensing, after which they should be qualified to implement this programme in their schools," she added.

The teachers will instruct students on taking measurements, help students understand the relevance of their observations, and explain the significance of the global visualisations, she said.

Students, guided by trained teachers, take environmental measurements identified and designed by an international group of scientists and educators, Ms. Naber explained.

They will learn how their local observations, together with those of other students and scientists worldwide, make an environmental picture of the earth, she explained.

The Internet connection for the schools was set up to allow access to a local network and five Internet sites, she clarified.

FOE organised an informational workshop in August that was attended by approximately 30 teachers from local schools, Ms. Naber added.

The FOE Globe committee visited 13 schools in various localities, including the cities of Irbid, Husun, Mafrq, Tafleh, and Aqaba, which were chosen to implement this programme, she said.

They set up computers, tested equipment, and prepared for the actual Internet connection with other schools and environmental specialists, she continued.

The Globe agreement was signed by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, the American embassy, and FOE in October 1996.

"The Globe programme aims for students to conduct hands-on experiments that have real scientific significance," she said.

The students will be able to send their data via the Internet and other means to a processing centre, where the data are made available to scientists around the world, contributing to efforts to better understand the earth, she clarified.

She explained that the students' data are combined with data from other sources. State-of-the-art digital images, based on these data, are relayed back to classrooms by television, computers, and other communication systems, she said.

The visualisation emphasises how each school's observations are an important part of understanding the global environment, Ms. Naber concluded.

## Majority of former Parliament deputies intend to run for re-election

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than half of out-going Lower House members have expressed optimism about their chances of being re-elected in the Nov. 4 elections.

According to Jordan Times' interviews with candidates and local press reports, at least 48 of the 80 former deputies have so far officially announced bids for re-election.

If their forecasts prove true, the 13th parliament could feature a number of "old faces," notwithstanding the boycott of the Islamists, who won 17 seats in the last elections.

Statistics, however, show that voters favour "new faces": of the 64 deputies in the 11th Parliament who sought re-election in 1993, only 27 won.

In addition, the outgoing deputies will also have to consider that, due to the introduction of the one-person, one-vote system before the last elections, many tribal votes will be dispersed among rival relatives.

Former Minister of Supply Munir Sobar expressed confidence in being re-elected in the Amman Fifth District, though two of his cousins (Khalil Isma'il and Mouloud Sobar) are running against him for the Circassian seat allocated to that district.

Though admitting that the participation of his two kinsmen in the race could disperse his votes, the former MP told the Jordan Times that he was "sure to win," and added that his election campaign is already on track.

Former Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh was also very confident that he will be re-elected, although his tribe, Bani Hamida, is going to field at least five other candidates in the Madaba district.

"My campaign has already started, and everything seems to be going very well," he maintained, adding that the boycott of the elections by the Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), as well as other eight opposition parties, will "make it easier" for independent candidates to win.

Describing the key points in his campaign, Mr. Shakhaneh said "the people do not want to hear of politics, they want their needs to be addressed. That is why I am concentrating on my community's everyday problems, like lack of infrastructure and mounting unemployment."

Mr. Shakhaneh is going to run as independent, as he did in 1993. "I hope voters will let me continue the job I started," he concluded.

In addition to Mr. Shakhaneh, another of

Madaba's three former deputies intends to seek re-election.

Islamist independent Abdul Majeed Aqtash, who came second in Madaba in 1993 confirmed in an earlier interview with the Jordan Times that he will compete again, but this year in the Amman Second District, while out-going Christian deputy Samih Farah said he decided not to run "to give younger people from my same tribe and close to my political views a chance to be elected."

According to Mr. Farah, there are "at least six new candidates for the Madaba Christian seat, and they are all looking to me for support."

However, he said he will not announce which one he will support "until mid-October," after registration procedures have been completed.

Though Mr. Farah declined to name the aspiring Madaba Christian deputies, local press reports have mentioned as possible candidates Nashahat Hamaneh, Shafiq Zawaideh, Shouqi Karadshah, and Subeil Tawal. Local political commentators have indicated Mr. Zawaideh as the favourite.

Former Minister of Water and Transport Samir Kassar, who was the Christian deputy of the Balqa district in the 1989 11th Parliament, as well as in the 1993 12th Parliament, will also

run again this year in the same district.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Kassar denied he was a "tribal" candidate and maintained that "everybody who is running for the Balqa Christian seat is my competitor," adding that there are other six possible candidates for that seat.

In the Ma'an constituency, which, before this year's administrative amendments included also the Aqaba district and was allocated five seats, one of the former deputies, including former Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and former Minister of Interior Awad Khleifat, intends to run again.

The outgoing Ma'an deputies cited various reasons for their withdrawal from the race: former IAF Deputy Badr Khatib said he is complying with his party's decision to boycott, while former independent Deputy Taha Habbabeh said he wanted to leave the ground to "new faces."

In contrast, Mafrq appears to be so far the only electoral district in the Kingdom in which all former deputies have decided to try their luck again: Former Minister of Justice Abdul Karim Dughml, Abdullah Akhou Irsheh, and Mohammed Abu Oleim have confirmed they will join the race.

Among the outgoing deputies determined to run

again in this year's elections from other governorates are: Former Minister of Social Development Hamad Abu Jamous (Amman First District); former Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abu Ragheb, Toujan Feisal, the only woman deputy in the 12th Parliament, and Secretary General of the Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party Khalil Haddadin (all in Amman Third District); former deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Secretary General of the National Constitutional Party (NCP) Abdul Ra'ouf Rawabdeh and former Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat (both in Irbid); former Minister of Culture Ahmad Qudah (Ajloun); Fawaz Zo'bi (Ramtha); former Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Saneikat and former Minister of Post and Communications and Energy and Mineral Resources Hashem Dabbas (both in the Balqa district); NCP Secretary General and former Minister of Public Works Abdul Hadi Majali; and former Lower House Speaker Sa'ed Hayel Sour (northern bedouins).

Ministry of Interior Secretary General Hashem Sabagh announced two weeks ago that official registration procedures for candidates will start on Oct. 10, and will last for three days, in accordance with the Elections Law.

## HUDC awards tender for Aqaba housing

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) Wednesday awarded a local construction company a JD760,000 tender for the construction of a housing estate in Aqaba for government employees.

According to the contract, which was signed by HUDC Director Yousef Hiyasat and the company's general manager, nine buildings will comprise a total of 34 housing units, each of 125 square metres.

The government owns the units, which allows its employees working in Aqaba to rent them for nominal sum as long as they are civil servants.

According to the terms of the contract, work on the project is to be completed 18 months from commencement.

Mr. Hiyasat remarked at the signing ceremony that the HUDC project will be an extension to a similar estate built previously in Aqaba, adding that the HUDC had constructed 186 housing units in the past for employees working for the government-owned National Electric Power Company, the Vocational Training Corporation, and the Civil Defence Department.

According to Mr. Hiyasat, the HUDC is now contacting the government departments whose Aqaba employees wish to make use of the new units.

Mr. Hiyasat expressed the HUDC's readiness to respond to government departments' housing needs and provide the required housing units for their employees in all parts of the country.

## Workshop on interaction between universities, industry opens

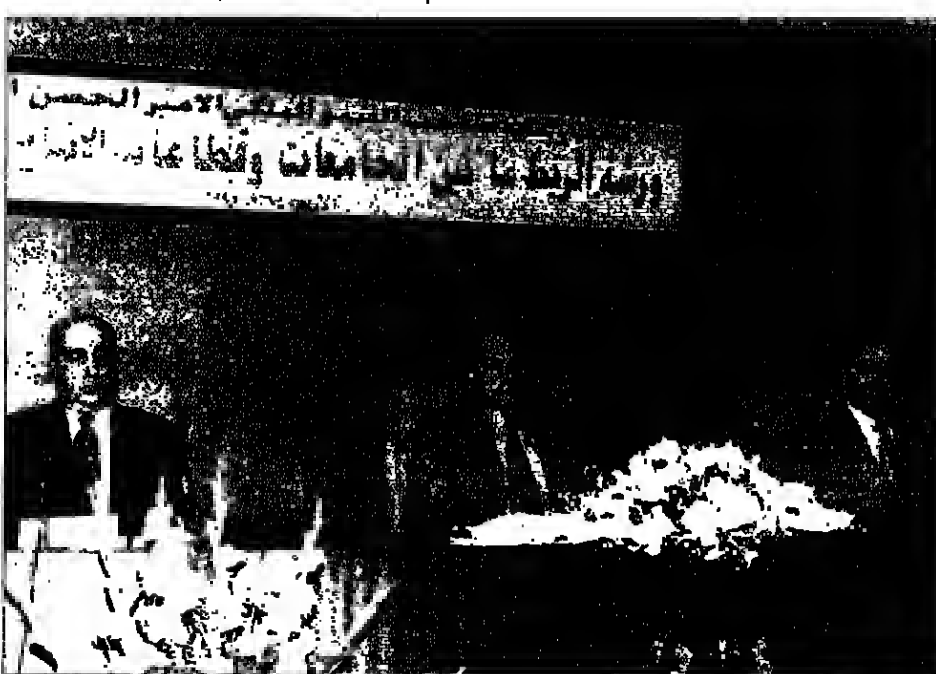
RAMTHA (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Hani Mulki Wednesday opened a workshop on interaction between universities and the production and services sectors.

Addressing the opening session, Dr. Mulki said the accelerating changes in the last few years in the technological, economic, communication, and information fields have changed the traditional roles of universities in advanced societies.

As a result, universities have become involved in industry and production-related research activities, he said.

"Our option is to build national economy capable of competing at the national and international levels and to adjust to the local, regional, and international changes," Dr. Mulki said, adding that economic policy should be based on continuous interaction and dialogue between the government, educational, research, training, and private sectors.

He called on universities to reconsider their curricula



Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hani Mulki (centre) opens a workshop dealing with the increased need for universities to cooperate with the various industry sectors due to the increase in technology (Petra photo)

with a view to introducing modern technology and specialised training to enable students to cope with the latest technological developments and meet the requirements of the national economy.

Dr. Mulki stated that local universities have focused

on teaching basic sciences without paying enough attention to the concept of technology.

Reiterating His Majesty King Hussein's directives to establish links between universities and the production sectors, Dr. Mulki said such links are the only stan-

dard against which the success of education and training can be measured.

Dr. Mulki stressed the importance of establishing close relations with various economic and production sectors and called for establishing joint projects and industrial compounds.

## Kingdom's endorsement of new mine treaty wording subject to review

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The new wording to a draft treaty on anti-personnel mines, formally approved at the recently-concluded Oslo Diplomatic Conference, must await further deliberations before the Kingdom endorses it.

"Jordan supports the final wording of the final draft treaty, but the government still has to study a comprehensive report compiled on the anti-personnel mine issue this week," said Ma'ruf Bakhti, vice president for Military Affairs at Mu'ta University.

Based on the outcome of these deliberations, the government will then decide whether or not to

endorse the new international humanitarian law treaty, Dr. Bakhti told the Jordan Times.

The report includes the positions of neighbouring countries on this treaty. Jordan's security requirements, and other technical matters, he explained.

Israel, Syria, and Egypt have not been party to the Ottawa process, which was initiated in 1996 by the Canadian government. This process stipulated that by December 1997 states would return to Ottawa to adopt a treaty banning anti-personnel mines.

"Jordan was present at the Oslo Diplomatic Conference as an observer and responded positively to proposed ideas on the most touching issues regarding the wording of the draft

treaty," noted head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in Amman, Jack De Maio.

The U.S. proposal to exempt U.N.-commanded forces in Korea from the general prohibition on anti-personnel mines was blocked by the majority of participating states, ICRC delegate Stuart Maslene told the Jordan Times.

He noted that although "there have been a number of proposals to change the definition [of anti-personnel mines] in the existing text and two possible exceptions," the large majority of states called for a strong and clear definition and a treaty without exceptions.

In a dramatic act of protest, the U.S. "just

walked out of the morning session on Thursday and did not return," commented Mr. De Maio.

The U.S. indicated from the beginning that it preferred to pursue a landmine ban through the U.N.'s Conference on Disarmament.

"The U.S., Russia, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Israel, and a host of other nations, who account for more than half the world's population, have no intention of attending the signing ceremony in Ottawa in December," declared Louise Doswald-Beck, Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation to the Conference.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### FILMS

\* "Cronica del Alba" (last episode) at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.  
\* "Beaches" at the American Centre, Abdoun on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

#### DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

#### THURSDAY'S ACTIVITIES

\* Film entitled "Isamu Naguchi" at 6:00 p.m.  
\* Graphics by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Daloul of Syria, and Najla Mehadi at the South Hall.  
\* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qailoka at the Middle Hall.  
\* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.  
\* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.  
\* Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

#### EXHIBITIONS

\* Painting by Fatima El-Helou at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Oct. 4.  
\* "The Projects of the Essence, Aspects of Italian Painting in the 90s" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 20.  
\* Works by Khlef Mahmoud Khlef at Hamourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Oct. 2 (Tel. 5536098).  
\* Works by Syrian artist Dr. Fateh Moudares at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 25 (Tel. 5537598).  
\* Works by Darleen Wilkerson entitled "Arab Madinas in Basil" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Sept. 25 (Tel. 644555).  
\* Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radiocivite" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.  
\* Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).



## 2 die, tens of thousands sick as S. East Asia haze crisis worsens

JAKARTA (AFP) — South East Asia Wednesday reported its first two deaths from the choking man-made haze blanketing much of the region.

The haze has spread to parts of the southern Philippines and Thailand.

More than 1,000 Malaysian firefighter volunteers arrived on Wednesday at Dumai, in the central Sumatran province of Riau, to help combat the fires.

In Riau's capital of Pekanbaru free masks were being distributed to schoolchildren and the population, the Media Indonesia daily said.

"The smoke is getting nastier by the day and I now wear a mask that I bought at the pharmacy for 1,500 rupiah to go outside although my eyes are still getting stung," a telephone operator in Jambi in Sumatra Island told AFP.

Visibility in Jambi Wednesday was reported down to 30 metres, while officials said the airport there has remained closed since Sept. 4.

Jambi Governor Abdurrahman Sayuti has

ordered kindergartens closed because of the haze while schools from primary upwards were told not to hold activities out in the open.

In West Kalimantan on Borneo Island, local authorities have declared schools closed from Wednesday to Sept. 31 at least, the Suara Karya said.

At Palangkaraya in Central Kalimantan dust particles in the air have reached 700 microgrammes per cubic metre, close to three times the safety level of 260 microgrammes, the Media Indonesia daily said.

"Since September the filter for our air pollution detection equipment has had to be changed every two hours and since Sept. 22, it has to be replaced every hour because of the density of the dust," said the head of the Palangkaraya Meteorology Station, Hidayat.

In Malaysia's central state of Selangor around 10,000 people had been treated as of Saturday, most for respiratory tract infections, Health Department Director Shukur Mohammad Noor

said. More than 5,000 people have been reported sick in Malaysia's eastern state of Sarawak on Borneo where postmen are donning masks and goggles to protect them on their rounds.

Azman Zainal Abidin, an expert in air pollution control, played down the immediate dangers in the Sarawak capital Kuching, where the air pollution index eased to 651 points early Wednesday — still at danger levels — from 800 points Tuesday.

Azman was quoted by The Star daily as saying inhaling air in Kuching was as dangerous as smoking a cigarette a day. But he added that authorities did not know if the particulate matter was cancer-causing in the long run.

Even in Malaysia's northern Penang state, reports said there was a 200 per cent increase in the number of patients seeking treatment for haze-related ailments to 62 a day since Monday. The haze has also spread to southern Thailand including the prime tourist resort of Phuket but officials said it was not yet at danger

levels.

The World Bank warned the region Wednesday to tackle slash-and-burn tactics. Farmers who fell and burn trees to cultivate land are looking for short-term gains that will provoke long-term desolation as the earth becomes unfit for agriculture, operations chief Paul Mitchell told AFP.

Indonesia's government has given 176 companies, mostly big plantation firms, until the end of the month to prove they were not deliberately starting fires.

But Indonesian timber baron Mohammad "Bob" Hasan Wednesday blamed small farmers rather than big companies, saying the blazes were the fault of "people's plantations, shifting cultivation farmers and wood thieves."

The smog has delayed the sending of food, medicine and paramedics to Indonesia's easternmost province of Irian Jaya on New Guinea island, where 251 people have been reported dead, mostly of starvation and cholera, following a drought-induced water shortage.



A young Indonesian mother is helped by her son to extinguish a blaze which struck their pepper plantation in East Kalimantan on the Indonesian side of Borneo Island. The crisis is being exacerbated by drought blamed on the El Nino weather phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean which has seriously delayed monsoon rains (Renter photo)

## Pakistan, India remain far apart after talks

NEW YORK (R) — The prime ministers of arch-rivals India and Pakistan held talks on long-standing grievances Tuesday but did not achieve any breakthrough, officials on both sides said.

Clear evidence of the gulf between the two states came in their comments on possible U.S. mediation.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that would be very helpful to the two nations, which have often been at loggerheads over the last 50 years.

Minutes later an Indian official poured cold water on the idea, saying it was out of the question.

We believe no one knows the problems of the region better than ourselves. There is no place for the kind of mediation which has been mentioned, he told reporters.

Officials said the talks between Mr. Sharif and Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral were cordial, although no date was set for any future contacts.

Disputes over the territory of Kashmir — two-thirds-controlled by India but with a mainly Muslim population — have triggered two of the three wars between India and Pakistan since 1947.

Skirmishes are common across the disputed control line that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

Mr. Sharif and the Indian official were at pains to point out that the protracted dispute would not be solved overnight, saying they were confident progress would gradually be made.

On Monday Mr. Sharif offered to start talks on a treaty of nonaggression, but the question was not brought up at Tuesday's talks.

Any constructive idea put forward by Pakistan will be discussed with seriousness, the Indian official said.

He said the two countries should concentrate on boosting economic cooperation, since there was a feeling that the political issues would eventually be resolved.

Officials said the two leaders had agreed that measures should be taken to lessen tension across the control line, where several people have died in recent cross-border shelling. One step could be for local commanders on both sides to meet.

These incidents are most unfortunate, and we don't want to engage in any polemics on this. When such things happen, steps should be taken to prevent them occurring in future, the Indian official said.

Last week the two countries ended their third round of talks since March with an agreement to meet again but without any sign that disputes were being resolved.

Pakistan has regularly accused India of brutality toward the population of Kashmir, and Foreign Minister Shamshad Ahmad said the excesses in the territory would have to stop.

We would not want anyone to get the impression that while the dialogue continued, these atrocities were going on. It would not be conducive to taking the process of dialogue forward, he told reporters.

India accuses Pakistan of arming guerrillas fighting on the Indian side of the line, a charge Islamabad denies.

A major stumbling block in the bilateral talks has been Pakistan's insistence that a separate working group be set up on Kashmir. India fears any kind of concession on the issue would imply that the Himalayan region is a disputed territory.

## Australian ministers quit over travel claims

CANBERRA (R) — Two senior Australian ministers quit Wednesday as a deepening row over travel allowance abuse allegations hit the 18-month-old conservative government of Prime Minister John Howard.

In the biggest ministerial crisis to hit the government, Mr. Howard told parliament in a special appearance he had accepted the resignations of Transport and Regional Development Minister John Sharp and Administrative Services Minister David Jull.

The shock announcement followed revelations late Tuesday that Mr. Sharp had secretly repaid almost 9,000 Australian dollars (\$6,500) of travel allowances he could not substantiate.

Mr. Jull, who oversees parliamentary expenses, had not revealed the payment to parliament, although he had detailed repayments by non-government members.

"I have accepted their resignations and I believe their resignations are appropriate," Mr. Howard said.

Mr. Howard said the ministers had to resign because the repayment was so large and should have been officially explained in detail.

Wednesday's resignations have hit the government midway through its first term.

They follow the resignation in July of Mr. Howard's small business minister, Geoff Prosser, over allegations he had breached the ministerial code of conduct.

An assistant minister and parliamentary secretary quit late last year over conflict-of-interest allegations.

"I have acted to uphold not only the reality of standards but also the perception of standards," Mr. Howard said.

perpetrated has occurred," Mr. Howard, announcing an official inquiry into the matter, said he was not judging the ministers' guilt or innocence, but said he had never had any reason to doubt their honesty.

Mr. Howard said Science Minister Peter McGauran and Veterans Affairs Minister Bruce Scott had also repaid travel allowance payments of smaller amounts, but they will remain in their jobs.

Australian politicians and ministers are entitled to tax-free payments of up to A\$320 a night for nights spent away from home on business.

Mr. Howard's Liberal-National Coalition came to power in a landslide victory in March 1996, partly on a platform of cleaning up government.

But despite imposing a new ethics code, his government has been beset by reg-

ular rows over ethical standards.

Three sitting or recently retired government MPs are before the courts over allegations of fraud in relation to travel allowances. So, too, is a key independent senator, until recently supported by Mr. Howard's government.

The government has also been hit by a series of other woes in recent months, including controversy over native land rights and a divisive national race row sparked by populist politician Pauline Hanson.

The government's opinion poll lead has fallen steadily over the past nine months, dropping from 12 points to about three, with some leading polls putting the government and opposition neck and neck. The next election is due by mid-1999.

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## Heavy arms fire again rocks Brazzaville

KINSHASA (AFP) — Rival factions in the Congolese capital Brazzaville hammered each other with heavy weapons' fire overnight, reports from Kinshasa across the Congo river said Wednesday.

The firing stopped in the early morning, an AFP reporter in Kinshasa said.

Bitter fighting between troops loyal to President Pascal Lissouba and the militia of his arch-rival, Denis Sassou Nguesso, has continued despite increasingly strident ceasefire calls from neighbouring states.

Official figures put the number killed since clashes

broke out in early June at 4,000, but international organisations have put the toll at almost twice that.

Several hundred thousand people have fled the capital for the country, or to the neighbouring states, including the Democratic Republic of Congo.

On Wednesday, as the guns which have reduced much of Brazzaville to rubble fell into temporary silence, radio stations controlled by both sides resumed the propaganda battle.

Radio Liberté, controlled by Sassou Nguesso, accused Mr. Lissouba and

his Prime Minister Bernard Kolelas of genocide. Supporters of Sassou Nguesso, a former president, have refused to recognise Mr. Kolelas, nor the government he formed last week, because he was appointed by Mr. Lissouba, whose presidential mandate expired on August 31.

Presidential elections planned for July were postponed indefinitely because of the fighting.

The Lissouba-controlled Radio Congo accused Sassou Nguesso of being a rebel.

## Former S. African general admits executing anti-apartheid activists

PORT ELIZABETH (AFP) — Retired police general, Nic Van Rensburg admitted before South Africa's Truth Commission Wednesday that he and a colleague executed two anti-apartheid activists in 1982.

Van Rensburg said student leaders Siphiwo Msimkulu and Topsy Madaka were abducted from outside a hotel in this south coast city in April 1982, and taken to a disused police station where they were interrogated and then given coffee spiked with sleeping tablets.

When they fell asleep Van Rensburg and his colleague, Colonel Gideon Nieuwoudt, took them outside and executed them with shots to the head.

Van Rensburg said he killed Msimkulu with a single shot behind an ear.

The bodies were placed on a pile of firewood, doused with diesel and then burned for six hours. The remains were taken up by Nieuwoudt, who then dumped them in the nearby Fish River.

As Van Rensburg was giving his testimony, Msimkulu's teenage son, Sikhumhuzo, began weeping and collapsed, and had to be carried from the hall.

His sister Aleuta also broke down and was comforted by Truth and Reconciliation Commission officials.

Van Rensburg and Nieuwoudt are among four former security police officers applying for amnesty from the truth commission for the murders of Msimkulu and Madaka.

The truth commission, which is probing human rights abuses during the apartheid era, is obliged to grant amnesty to applicants provided they can prove a political motive and make full confession.

Nieuwoudt, who is serving a 20-year jail term, is also applying for amnesty for eight other killings, including the 1977 death in police detention of Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko.

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## New S. African political party fights for disenchanted voters

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — They come from different worlds — one is the son of a conservative Afrikaner farmer who rose to prominence in the apartheid regime, the other a former black militant in South Africa's liberation struggle.

But on Saturday, Roelf Meyer and Bantu Holomisa, respectively defectors from the conservative National Party (NP) and President Nelson Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC), will launch a new multi-racial party aimed at winning power.

Faced with an increasingly skeptical electorate, the two pariahs of the country's largest political parties are striving to win votes of the disenchanted and undecided and regenerate a struggling opposition.

"Today, there is no balance on the political scene. We are still being drawn down by the old political order, by parties either tainted by apartheid or joined by the singular goal of fighting it," the party said in a statement last week.

The new party will unveil

its name, colours and aims Saturday in Johannesburg. At their first joint conference, the two leaders answered policy questions in vague outline, saying they would listen to the South African people before deciding upon detailed objectives.

Nevertheless, several themes have emerged — the fight against crime and corruption, job creation, the abolishment of political "affirmative action" policies designed to bring the black majority into the white-dominated economy, and the end of "nepotism."

Since South Africa's historic all-race elections in 1994, the popularity of the ANC has dropped about 10 per cent, the NP also 14 per cent, there is about 20 per cent floating. We have to come up with a good product and a good implemented strategy on politics to capture these people who want no more rhetoric," the party statement said.

Since joining forces, the two men have tried to capitalise on their differences; Mr. Holomisa was an extreme-

leftist and one of the most popular leaders of the anti-apartheid struggle while Mr. Meyer was the centre-right former secretary general of the NP who maintained an image as the boy-next-door into his 50s.

"Roelf and I are very different and we must rally around that challenge and build a winning nation around that," Mr. Holomisa told AFP.

Among their few common points is the fact that both were ousted from their former political families — Mr. Holomisa for accusing an ANC government minister of corruption and criticising the party's fund-raising, while Mr. Meyer proposed transforming the party which invented apartheid into a popular black-based movement.

Mr. Holomisa, 42, who enjoys the title "general" from his military days, is the son of a traditional Xhosa chief who in 1983 captured power in the apartheid semi-independent tribal homeland of Transkei, which subsequently became a base for then-outlawed ANC fighters.

## Ball is in N. Korea's court on peace talks — U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — The United States and South Korea agreed Tuesday that "the ball is in North Korea's court" to restart aborted preparatory talks on four-party Korean peninsula peace negotiations, a senior U.S. official said.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and South Korean Foreign Minister Chong-Ha Yu "agreed ... that with regard to the four-party talks, the ball is in North Korea's court," the official told reporters.

"They are waiting for a signal of seriousness from the North Koreans that we have not seen. And absent that, there's not a lot we can do to get this thing going again," he said.

There was speculation that Pyongyang was stalling on the peace talks until it saw who took power in South Korean elections in December, he added.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said that Seoul was

drawing nearer to Washington in its understanding of how serious the famine is in North Korea, the world's most headline remaining socialist system.

The two foreign ministers had an "extensive discussion of the nature of the food crisis and how deep it was," the official said.

They "talked about different ways to focus on the problem of children in North Korea who have severe malnutrition. They talked about working closely with the Japanese on this question," he said.

On the issue of food aid for North Korea, the United States, which has taken lead in pressing forward on behalf of such donations, and South Korea are "coming closer and closer together," the official said.

He spoke after a second round of preparatory talks, aimed at establishing an agenda for peace talks, ended in failure.

Washington blamed the

Communist Pyongyang government for the failure of the talks between the United States, China, South and North Korea to arrange a conference in Geneva on a permanent peace agreement for the divided Korean peninsula.

U.S. officials said famine-stricken North Korea had made "unacceptable" demands to link food aid to the four-party talks and to include U.S. troop withdrawals from South Korea and a bilateral peace treaty with Washington as agenda items.

"They have put forward agenda items that we regard as non-serious," one official said concerning last week's breakdown of four-party talks laying the ground for full-scale peace talks with the United States, Germany, France and Britain.

The United States says that while it is ready to discuss the future of its 37,000 troops in South Korea, to include their withdrawal as

an agenda item would be to cede in advance the point that they should leave.

It also says that while it has already sent food aid to North Korea and is ready to consider more, it will not be forced to buy North Korean attendance at the peace talks with pledges of aid.

North Korea said Sunday that the United States should provide food aid as a sign of goodwill, that a U.S. troop pullout from South Korea had always been on the table and that the resumption of the talks depended on the United States.

North Korea, facing a severe food shortage, also said that the United States was trying to use food aid as a weapon.

The 1950-1953 Korean war, in which the United States supported the capitalist south and China backed the Communist North, ended with an armistice that stopped the fighting but technically not the war.

Catherine II.

Two humanitarian organisations, meanwhile, hope that Mr. Chirac will convince Mr. Yeltsin to step up efforts to free five French aid workers kidnapped in the Russian Caucasus.

Four of them, from the Lyon-based relief organisation Equilibre, disappeared in Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan, on Aug. 2. The fifth, a worker for Medecins Sans Frontieres, was seized on July 1 in Nazran, capital of neighbouring Ingushetia.

## Chirac to make 3-day state visit to Russia

PARIS (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac begins a three-day state visit to Russia Thursday, bearing what his spokeswoman Catherine Colonna called "a message of friendship, perseverance, determination and confidence in the future."

Ms. Colonna said the main themes of the visit were cooperation in pursuing reforms in Russia and the country's full integration in the international community.

While political relations between the two countries are considered excellent, boosted by a firm friendship between Mr. Chirac

and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin, trade levels are relatively low.

France is only ninth in the table of exporters to Russia, while its imports of oil and natural gas resulted in a deficit of some 10 billion francs (\$2 billion) last year.

In a bid to involve France in major industrial projects, Mr. Chirac will be accompanied by a score of businessmen from various sectors, along with Education Minister Claude Allegre, European Affairs Minister Pierre Moscovici and Foreign Trade Minister Jacques Dondoux.

He will have behind him an agreement signed Monday to reschedule 15 billion francs in debt owed to France by the former Soviet Union.

During his visit, taking him from Moscow to Saint Petersburg, Mr. Chirac will have talks with Mr. Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, open a new French school in the Russian capital, and make a keynote speech at the city's institute for international relations.

He will make another speech to the student body of the university of Saint Petersburg and tour the Dubrowski Library, founded by the Tsarina



A young Indonesian mother is helped by her son to extinguish a blaze which struck their pepper plantation in East Kalimantan on the Indonesian side of Borneo Island. The crisis is being exacerbated by drought blamed on the El Nino weather phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean which has seriously delayed monsoon rains (Renter photo)

minimizing the damage up to night and morning. The Independent Services Corp. (ISC) is expected to be in the area by Friday," he said.

As the hurricane struck off the coast of Mexico, it caused damage to the town of San Juan, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the storm was moving northward, threatening the Gulf of Mexico.

Agencies — Fresh class of troops and renegade forces — thousands of refugees — official said Wednesday.

the number that crossed into the border area, chief spokesman for Refugees.

to the 3,500 who were at the border since the crisis.

between 4,000 and 5,000 people are on the border.

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Mexican soldiers move a military truck stuck in a flood caused by rains from Hurricane Nora on the Los Cabos-La Paz Highway in Mexico's Baja California peninsula. Torrential rains from Hurricane Nora stranded hundreds of Mexicans on flooded highways in southern Baja California (Reuter photo)

## Hurricane surges north, aims at Mexican coast

CABO SAN LUCAS (R) — Torrential rains from Hurricane Nora stranded hundreds of Mexicans on flooded highways in southern Baja California Tuesday as the hurricane surged toward the peninsula.

Fierce squalls blew through this resort town and waves up to 3.5 metres high kept frightened tourists huddled in their hotels on the exposed tip of the Baja California Peninsula.

But weather forecasters said Nora looked most likely to hit ripe farmland in the central peninsula, near Puerto Penasco and Ensenada.

"Puerto Penasco might get minimum hurricane force winds up there Thursday night and into Friday," hurricane specialist, Rick Boyer, of Independent Weather Services Corp, told Reuters.

"Nora is absolutely expected to hit land and move to Arizona and Utah by Friday," he added.

As the hurricane's fallout thrashed the coastline, Nora lurked off the coast late Tuesday at about 475 kilometres southwest of the resort town Cabo San Lucas.

The U.S. National Hurricane Centre's Richard Pasch said Nora began to veer more northward Tuesday, swerving slowly in toward Mexico's Pacific Coast.

"The hurricane could touch ground Wednesday or Thursday and impact northern Baja California or possibly the state of California," Mexican weather service forecaster Dario Rodriguez told Reuters.

Nora's impact could be tempered by cooler waters, which have slowed the hurricane's wind speeds from about 250 kilometres per hour to a current about 144 kilometres per hour. Forecasters said a calmer Nora could hit the coast after being downgraded to tropical storm.

The El Nino phenomenon, which has warmed waters off Peru and Ecuador and upset global weather patterns, has spurred more frequent and ferocious hurricanes and tropical storms on the Pacific Coast. Such storms feed off the warmer waters.

According to Mexican state news agency Notimex, frail fishing villages as far afield as the northwest mainland states of Sonora and Sinaloa were bracing for the onslaught in case Nora leapt-frogged Baja and continued West.

Baja California State Public Security Director Jose Zavala told Reuters most of the state was on alert for Nora, and that regional flooding had ruined roads and bumble dwellings.

## Thousands of Cambodians displaced by clashes

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — Fresh clashes between Cambodian government troops and renegade Khmer Rouge guerrillas have driven thousands of refugees to the border with Thailand, a U.N. official said Wednesday.

"We believe that the number that crossed into Thailand is close to 5,000," said Peter Van Der Vaart, chief of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Phnom Penh.

"That's in addition to the 3,500 who were already there," he added.

Thai border officials said only 700 Cambodians had crossed the remote western frontier since renewed fighting erupted in the area Saturday.

However, they said between 4,000 and 5,000 civilians had gathered on the Cambodian side of the border ready to cross into Thailand.

"We're trying to clarify the situation, the area is not accessible," Mr. Van Der Vaart said.

The flood of refugees began in August, when intermittent clashes began in the remote western district of Samlaut between government troops and a renegade faction of the Khmer Rouge.

Fighting between the guerrillas and troops loyal to second Prime Minister Hun Sen erupted again last weekend, displacing the latest group of 5,000, Mr. Van Der Vaart said.

Khmer Rouge forces in western Cambodia broke with the group's hardline leadership and defected to the government last year but clashes broke out in August between government troops and a faction of the defectors.

Some government commanders say the faction is allied with Prince Norodom Ranariddh who was ousted by Mr. Hun Sen as first prime minister in two days of violent clashes in early July.

Analysts say Mr. Hun Sen launched his de facto coup after hearing reports that Prince Ranariddh was on the verge of sealing an alliance with the Khmer Rouge.

Mr. Hun Sen himself defected from the Khmer Rouge in 1977 and led a Hanoi-backed government after Vietnam drove the brutal Maoist regime from power in 1979.

The two premiers formed an uneasy coalition government after U.N.-sponsored elections in 1993 but their relationship rapidly deteriorated, culminating in Mr. Hun Sen's bloody seizure of power.

More than 20,000 Cambodians have fled into Thailand's Surin province since Prince Ranariddh's ouster to escape fighting between his troops and Hun Sen loyalists around the northwest Cambodian border town of O'smach.

However, some officials said the Samlaut clashes were not political but arose from competition in the lucrative logging trade in the heavily-forested area.

Meanwhile, Cambodia celebrated the fourth anniversary of its constitution and the reascension of King Norodom Sihanouk to the throne Wednesday but a combination of economic, political and military concerns threatened to spoil the party.

While the Cambodian people enjoyed a holiday, the Phnom Penh government — beset by a growing internal armed resistance — struggled to deal with an increasing number of setbacks on the international front.

"The last several days — beginning with the U.N. — have not been good ones," said a local political analyst, referring to a United Nations decision on Friday to keep Cambodia's seat at the 52nd General Assembly session vacant.

The decision, which has been decried by the government as an "insult," came as the U.S. intensified efforts to withhold recognition and aid following the violent ouster of Prince Ranariddh in July.

July's fighting which ousted Prince Ranariddh has dealt the country's service industry a severe blow with more than 20,000 jobs estimated to have been lost as tourists stay away.

In addition, economic growth, once expected to be six per cent, has been revised drastically downwards to one per cent or less.

In an effort to restore Cambodia's tattered image and gain the international recognition they are so eager to have, newly named First Prime Minister Ung Huot and Mr. Hun Sen, were going ahead with plans to lobby against the U.N. decision in New York.

In a separate development, Exiled Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy said Wednesday he would return home next month despite the risk he could be "arrested or killed" by the government of Mr. Hun Sen.

He said he would go to Phnom Penh on October 6, for the first time since Mr. Hun Sen seized sole power there after bloody factional fighting in July, to see supporters and establish the extent of the regime's "intimidation of the people."

"I have to go to see the situation for myself although obviously it carries a very real risk," he told AFP in a telephone interview from Washington.

In Phnom Penh a senior official said Mr. Rainsy was welcome to return and the government would give him protection if he "did not accuse us of trying to spy on him."

## U.S.: Much to do in Bosnia but no SFOR decision

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Tuesday the international community had far from finished its task in Bosnia but Washington had not decided what role it should play after the NATO-led mission to stabilise the region ends in June next year.

Sandy Berger, U.S. President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, also said in a speech that the United States had an abiding interest in stability in Bosnia and had already made much progress in bringing it about.

The United States has about 8,000 troops in the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) set up to maintain order in Bosnia after the parties to the long conflict signed peace accords under U.S. auspices in Dayton, Ohio, in 1995.

"There is mounting evidence that...the choices made at Dayton are producing real positive change in Bosnia. Dayton has kept the guns silent and Bosnia intact," Mr. Berger told students at Georgetown University.

"The work of rebuilding, uneven as it is, is moving forward... substantial majorities of Bosnian Muslims, Croats, and Serbs believe the conditions are being created for a lasting peace," he added.

But on the negative side, not enough displaced Bosnians have been able to go home. A struggle for power rages on in the Bosnian Serb entity and prominent indicted war criminals such as Radovan Karadzic remain at large, he said.

"Less than two years after Dayton, and after so much devastation, the job is far from done. We are not as far along as we would like to be... Progress is painfully slow on many fronts," added Mr. Berger.

On the crucial question of what the United States will do with its force when the SFOR mandate expires, the national security adviser was non-committal.

Americans are divided on the subject. A humanitarian lobby favours an extension of the mandate to avert a return to ethnic violence. Others worry that the United States might end up caught in a bitter conflict peripheral to U.S. interests.

Mr. Berger said: "In June 1998, SFOR's mission will end, as the president has said. But the international community's engagement will continue. Whether an international security presence is part of that engagement and what role the United States might play remains to be decided."

"In part, that decision depends on where things stand as we approach the time of SFOR's departure. But one thing is clear... the United States has an important interest in the establishment of a lasting peace in Bosnia," he added.

Mr. Berger echoed previous U.S. assessments that the tide was turning inside the Bosnian Serb area against the hardliners loyal to war leader Karadzic and based in the town of Pale.

The United States has backed elected Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic, helping her police force take over police stations and trying to stop hostile broadcasting by radio stations controlled by the hardliners.

# U.S., Japan approve new security arrangements

NEW YORK (R) — The United States and Japan announced Tuesday they had approved the first changes in their regional security cooperation arrangements in nearly 20 years.

"We have approved new guidelines for U.S.-Japan defence cooperation," Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said after a meeting with Japan's foreign and defence ministers and U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen.

"By replacing 1978 guidelines that focused largely on the cold war era threats, we have reinvigorated our partnership to meet the challenges of this new era," she said.

New Japanese Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi said he was "confident that the new guidelines indeed provide a substantive foundation for U.S.-Japan defence cooperation under normal circumstances as well as in contingencies."

The officials are in New York for the annual session of the U.N. General Assembly.

The Pentagon has said that under the new guidelines, Japan agreed in principle to give key military support to U.S. forces in an Asia crisis, including access to bases, while maintaining its ban on the use of offensive military might.

The new arrangements would pave the way for emergency U.S. use of more Japanese bases as well as Japanese mine sweeping of sea lanes and joint evacuation of civilians in a war or other crisis, defence officials said.

Mr. Cohen told reporters that previously there were no guidelines on how to coordinate on peacekeeping or on search and rescue operations, with which cold war militaries seldom were involved.

"These new guidelines are going to facilitate greater cooperation in such areas as logistical support in search and rescue operations following disasters," he said.

Also, "they outline how our governments are going to work together if Japan faces a threatened or actual attack," he added.

A copy of the guidelines released by the Pentagon states: "All actions taken by Japan will be consistent with its laws and regulations then in effect."

It also specifies that "in order to meet its commitments, the United States will maintain its nuclear deterrent capability, its forward deployed forces in the Asia-Pacific region and other forces capable of reinforcing those forward deployed forces."

The two sides stressed that while the new guidelines solidified their "robust and dynamic (military) alliance," the agreement should not be interpreted as threatening any country, such as China which has watched warily as Washington and Tokyo have intensified their security ties.

In fact, Ms. Albright and Mr. Cohen insisted the agreement would contribute to the stability and safety of the entire Asia Pacific region.

"The new guidelines are not addressed at any individual nation, at any third nation," Mr. Cohen said.

He said that in an effort to assuage Chinese concerns, the United States and Japan have kept Beijing closely apprised of their discussions and have sought to make the process as transparent as possible.

Mr. Obuchi said that he would seek in meetings with his Chinese and Korean counterparts in New York to reassure neighbouring countries further.

U.S. officials have said the agreement would not specifically name available ports or airfields affected.

The guidelines would initially provide a generic but firm basis for political leaders in Tokyo and Washington to make decisions on cooperation based on specific military contingency plans to be drawn up later, they said.

China, Korea and other countries in Eastern Asia are wary of any offensive use of Japan's large and high-tech self-defence force in the region, despite tight restrictions in Japan's constitution against such deployment.

The new guidelines are the culmination of nearly two years of negotiations and discussion under which Japan and the United States will cooperate more fully to guarantee peace and stability in the region.

## Albright 'encouraged' by China talks

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said she was "encouraged" by talks Tuesday with China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, particularly on nuclear issues, a senior U.S. official said.

"Our impression is that China took our 'concerns seriously,' the official said privately.

"The Chinese are trying to work with us to make the summit as successful as possible," the official said, referring to President Jiang Zemin's planned visit to Washington in October.

The official also announced that a delegation of U.S. experts would be travelling to Beijing to discuss the trip, saying that the number of days to the summit "is in the mid-thirties."

The official declined to give the date of the delegation's visit or say who would be on it but it would be expected to include Robert Einhorn, the deputy assistant secretary of state for non-proliferation.

The two diplomats "both agreed that substantial progress has been made" on the issue, the official said.

Turning to human rights, another point of disagreement between Washington and Beijing and a potential obstacle to the October summit, Ms. Albright asked Mr. Qian Qichen if two celebrated dissidents, Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan, could be released for medical reasons, the official said.

The Chinese diplomat acknowledged that it was possible under Chinese law but promised nothing.

Chinese Justice Minister Xiao Yang had accused the two dissidents on Tuesday of faking illness to gain their freedom.

The Chinese official also suggested establishing "a direct modern communication link" between Presidents Bill Clinton and President Jiang Zemin. The technical details of a "red telephone" have not yet been defined.

Earlier, Ms. Albright said that the United States had asked China to make a major increase in its U.N. contribution to make up for a projected decline in U.S. payments.

"We have urged China to increase its rate to a level more commensurate to its position as a political and economic power of global standing," she said before talks with Mr. Qian Qichen on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly.

## South Korean president quits as ruling party head

SEOUL (AFP) — President Kim Young-Sam quit Wednesday as the head of South Korea's ruling party amid growing factional feuds sparked by the impending presidential election in December.

Mr. Kim submitted his resignation as New Korea Party (NKP) president through an aide, to give a freer hand to NKP presidential candidate Lee Hoi-Chang who has been dogged by poor public opinion ratings.

Mr. Lee, a former premier and court judge, will succeed Mr. Kim as party president at the end of this month despite serious in-house disputes over the chairmanship, the party's number two post.

The new chairman will be selected at a party convention on Sept. 30.

Aides said Mr. Lee favoured Lee Hang-Dong, a conservative faction leader. But rival faction leaders have threatened to boycott the convention, eroding Mr. Lee's desperate bid to restore party unity.

Mr. Kim asked that the ruling party unite in their support for Mr. Lee, the aide said.

Party divisions have intensified since popular former province governor Rhee In-Je split from the NKP in early September to run in the December election as an independent.

The move threw the ruling party's presidential race further into disarray, with Mr. Lee Hoi-Chang dogged by allegations that his sons avoided compulsory military service.

In public opinion polls the governor has outranked Mr. Lee Hoi-Chang but is far behind veteran opposition candidate Kim Dae-Jung of the National Congress for New Politics.

Six candidates are running for the presidency. The three others are conservative opposition leader Kim Jong-Pil, former Seoul Mayor Cho Soon and union leader Kwon Yong-Kil.

## Europeans, Japan say it is time for U.S. to pay up

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Japan and European allies of the United States made it clear Tuesday that they paid their U.N. debts on time and Washington should do the same before it asked for a reduction in its dues.

The two diplomats "both agreed that substantial progress has been made" on the issue, the official said.

Turning to human rights, another point of disagreement between Washington and Beijing and a potential obstacle to the October summit, Ms. Albright asked Mr. Qian Qichen if two celebrated dissidents, Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan, could be released for medical reasons, the official said.

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"We have urged China to increase its rate to a level more commensurate to its position as a political and economic power of global standing," she said before talks with Mr. Qian Qichen on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly.

Japan, the second largest payer, is assessed at about 16 per cent. But its dues are expected to rise to close to 20 per cent, although it has half the gross national product of the United States.

Nevertheless Japan and other countries have said that the method of assessing dues needed to be studied.

"We need to make sure the assessment is fair on basis of an objective formula that would apply to everyone and not just designed for one particular country's needs and once we have achieved that objective formula that everyone actually pays their assessment under it," British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook told a news conference.

"Efficient does not spell cheap," he said in reference to reforms U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan wants to institute to streamline the world organisation.

"We pay on time. We pay in full. We are at a disadvantage if others countries have not," he said, adding that the U.S. administration had worked hard to achieve a solution to problems it faces in Congress.

The 15 members of the European Community collectively pay about 35 per cent of U.N. costs, a point noted by Foreign Minister Jacques Poer of Luxembourg, the current EU president.

He told the assembly that EU nations "have always honoured their financial obligations promptly, fully and unconditionally."

Reform of the United Nations, including its ongoing financial crisis and an expansion of the Security Council are key issues in the 52nd General Assembly, the most inward looking session to date.

## 100th Ariane rocket launches satellite

KOUROU, French Guiana (R) — Western Europe's 100th Ariane rocket lifted an Intelsat communications satellite into orbit Tuesday after a textbook launch from Equatorial French Guiana.

The Ariane 421 rocket equipped with two liquid strap-on boosters lifted off at 5.58 p.m. local time from the European Space Agency (ESA) launch centre in Kourou, French Guiana on the northeast coast of South America.

The rocket rose into a clear equatorial night sky and was visible from the ground for over five minutes.

Twenty minutes later, space officials said the Intelsat 803 satellite separated from the Ariane rocket.

The Washington-based International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation said Intelsat 803 is the third of a run of six satellites with more capacity than the previous Intelsat-7 family. The satellite will service the Atlantic region.

Intelsat, with 141 member nations, owns and operates 26 satellites and remains the world's largest operator of international satellites.







## Society on the Move

### One general decorated, others take up positions ahead of elections

During the first visit to Jordan of Lt. General Georg L. Meiring, chief of the South African National Defence Force, His Majesty King Hussein bestowed upon Gen. Meiring the Order of Merit (First Class) last Sunday. The general, who was the guest of his Jordanian counterpart, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh, is on an official visit to the Middle East. The other countries on his tour, following his stay in the Kingdom which ended Wednesday, include Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Jawad Anani, and Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hani Mulki. The Higher Council will supervise the performance of the Executive Council, which is chaired by the JESORS director general, the secretaries general of the ministries of Finance, Industry, Trade and Supply, Social Development, Public Works and Housing, and Agriculture, a Central Bank of Jordan Deputy Governor, a principal from the financial department of the Armed Forces, five JESORS members and two representatives from the private sector.

on "Contemporary Islam and Arab Socialism." He has been director of the German cultural centres in Alexandria, Lima, Casablanca, Tripoli, Algiers and Amman (72-74). Dr. Ule is the recipient of several medals from his own and host countries, including Jordan's Istiklal Medal of the First Order. He will be introduced to several associates-to-be at a reception on Sept. 28 hosted by the head of the press and cultural department of the German embassy, Ingrid Liedgens.

stretching the globe. Last week Chilean Ambassador Jorge Iglesias and his wife Amalia hosted a reception to mark the 187th anniversary of Chile's independence. On Sept. 29 Swiss Ambassador Gian Federico Pedotti and his wife Maria will mark confederation day (actually celebrated Aug. 1, but the Pedottis were on summer holiday) with a reception at their Jabal Amman residence. The 48th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China will be celebrated by Ambassador Liu Bao Lai and his wife Yuan Shao Yun at the embassy premises on Sept. 30. On Oct. 2, Chargé d'Affaires of the embassy of the Republic of Korea Ki Chull Oh and his wife will introduce their new Ambassador and Mrs. Kyun Woo Lee at their home and mark their country's national day event. German Ambassador Peter Mende and his wife Margret will welcome guests at the Inter-Continental Hotel on the occasion of their country's national day next Saturday. Egypt's military attaché Mohammad Jami'e and his wife will celebrate the republic's army day at the Inter-Continental Hotel on Oct. 6. And finally, the Republic of China (Taiwan), represented in Jordan by Francis T. N. Chang and his wife at the commercial office of Taiwan, will also host a reception at the Inter-Continental to mark their national day.

**AN ACADEMIC APPROACH?** With the planned boycott of the Nov. 4 elections by the opposition, three Islamic Action Front deputies sought to obtain (in one case retain) teaching appointments at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Sharia (Islamic studies). Other than Bassam Emoush (Zarqa), who had already been teaching and thus was reappointed, reports are that former deputies Homam Said (Amman 5th District) and Mohammad Haj (Zarqa) were just testing the waters. The faculty does not believe that these two deputies actually intended to take full time teaching positions as that would mean that they would lose entitlement to their pensions from the Parliament. Deputy Said, in fact, teaches one-course at the university, but on a part-time basis. Decisions, therefore, may be postponed until the official registration of candidates.

**TWO DOWN:** One professional Gen. Turk will be in contact with while serving the interests of the JESORS membership is attorney Hanna Neddeh. Mr. Neddeh was fired last week by several retired ministry secretaries general for winning two cases on their behalf concerning the rate of cost of living allowances. The first case was settled in 1996 and the other earlier this year. The gathering was held as an expression of thanks to the mince-no-words lawyer.

#### NEW TERRITORY:

The Spanish Cultural Centre, Instituto Cervantes, has finally got a new director after more than one year of deliberating and tapping the expertise of Javier Ruiz, the institute's director in Damascus. She is Lola Infante, a journalist and teacher of Arabic language and history of the Arab World at the Autonomous University of Madrid. Born in Logroño, Spain in 1946, Ms. Infante has worked for the Spanish daily *Diario* as chief international correspondent and analyst in Paris.



Lola Infante

**A SPECIAL RUN:** Andy Mansfield of the British Army Parachute Regiment, supported by the Amman Hash House Harriers, will run on Friday, Sept. 26 from the Dead Sea to the 7th Circle for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Mansfield will start off from the Dead Sea at 5:30 a.m. and is expected to arrive at the 7th Circle at around 10:30 a.m. This is the first time that this run has been made uphill, as far as we can tell.

**BACK IN SERVICE:** The names of several retired Armed Forces officers were circulating last week. Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid, it was reported, has recommended the appointment of two retired officers as governors and at the same time, considered the retirement of Aqaba Governor Salem Turk. The two persons proposed as Ministry of Interior governors are Brigadier Nashed Majali, once military attaché in Washington and before that director of planning for the Jordan Armed Forces, and Imran Khamash, a former brigade commander and once an aide-de-camp to His Majesty King Hussein. As for Gen. Turk, it is expected that he will take over the reins of the Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation of Retired Servicemen/women, which has been headed by Hani Majali for several years. Gen. Turk, insiders say, will be more at ease at JESORS than in the world of government bureaucracy. Last Sunday, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, acting upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, presided over a meeting to form an executive council that will oversee the work of JESORS and draw a strategy to address the social and economic concerns of the organisation's members. Dr. Majali, who is chairman of JESORS, announced that the JESORS law had been temporarily amended thus creating a higher council under the prime minister's chairmanship to include the chairman of the joint chiefs-of-staff, the directors of the General Intelligence Department, the Public Security Department and the Civil Defence Department, as well as HRH Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, director of the National Security Council, Deputy Prime Minister

#### FAREWELLS & INTRODUCTIONS:

China makes the news again, here in Amman that is, with the departure of Senior Colonel Gao Chugun at the end of his nearly four-year tour of duty as military attaché of the People's Republic of China. Col. Gao, 52, who also goes by his adopted Arab name "Nabil Gumma'ah" will return to Beijing soon to spend a few months at the Department of Defence. He then expects to be posted to an embassy somewhere again in the Arab World. Col. "Gumma'ah" was educated in Egypt and was posted several times to his country's embassy in Cairo from 1970 to 1993. Col. Gao will be succeeded by Col. Dai Shaan, who arrived in Amman shortly after the convening in China of the 15th Communist Party congress. Col. Dai, 43, first served abroad, like his predecessor, in Egypt. Before being assigned to Jordan, he was deputy department head at the Ministry of Defence. Col. Dai's wife, Wang Li Jun, will not be accompanying him here as her career with China Radio International keeps her in Beijing. Ms. Wang is deputy director of China Radio's Arabic Department. The couple, both fluent in Arabic, have a daughter. A reception to bid farewell to Col. Gao and introduce his successor was hosted at the Chinese Embassy last night.

#### HE WAS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD:

A post just filled is that of director of the Goethe Institut. After the late April departure of former Director Dr. Dieter Glade to Cairo, Goethe Director in Beirut Dr. Wolfgang Ule had been shuttling between Beirut and Amman to oversee activities at the Jordan branch. But as of Sept. 1, Dr. Ule officially became director of this German government-backed cultural establishment. Born in Munich in 1939, Dr. Ule is a graduate of Cairo University (Arabic language and Islamic studies) and Heidelberg University, where he obtained his doctorate with a thesis

**HOUSE WARMING:** For nearly 20 years now Japan's ambassadors to Jordan have maintained residence in a house close to their embassy near Fourth Circle. But last night Ambassador Takayuki Kimura and his wife welcomed associates and friends to their new residence in Abdoun. With relations expanding, the Japanese Foreign Ministry agreed that more space was required for its envoy to entertain. The embassy was made what it calls a "reasonable" rental offer for its new living quarters and took it, opting for Abdoun where most other embassies and diplomatic residences are relocating. There are already firm plans to build a new embassy on land the Japanese government purchased near the Institute of Diplomacy on the Sixth Circle. Construction is expected to start at the end of next March and be completed by the year 2000. Japan's embassy in Jordan, which currently has a staff of nearly 40 (diplomats, administrators and local staff), is considered perhaps its third largest mission after those in the U.S. and Great Britain. The Kimuras have a daughter in high school and a son in middle school, both studying in Amman.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Late September into early October brings national day celebrations from countries

**DOWNTOWN CONCERT:** On the occasion of International Tourism Day, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Bilhaji is inviting guests to a music recital by the National Music Conservatory Noor Al Hussein Foundation on Friday evening at the Odium near the Roman Amphitheatre. Indications are that the 8:00 p.m. concert is by invitation only.

**TRADITION AS ART:** If quilt-making is your fancy, you will be glad to hear that the American Centre is hosting a visit to Jordan of American quilt and fibre artist Virginia Harris from September 26 to October 1. Ms. Harris, who is also a writer and photographer, will open her quilt exhibition "Piecing it Together" at the American Centre of the U.S. embassy on Tuesday, to be followed by a lecture on the art of quilt-making. On Sept. 28, at 10:00 a.m., she will conduct a workshop on "Designing Quilt Blocks from Origami." For more information call ext. 2579 at the U.S. embassy.

Jennifer Hamarneh

## American voices for justice

**Seeing The Light: Personal Encounters With The Middle East And Islam**  
edited by Richard H. Curtis and Janet McMahon  
Washington, D.C.: American Educational Trust, 1997, 280 pages, \$18.99

SEEING THE Light, in the sense of discovering the truth, is a phrase often used in a religious context. It is not by chance that it was chosen as the title of this collection of 74 essays which have previously been printed in the monthly magazine, The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs. Most of the essays concern personal experiences in the Holy Land — the site of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, though there are also episodes in Oman, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Syria.

most of the writers are Americans, their "seeing the light" involved breaking through the thick fog of pro-Israeli bias which permeates the U.S. media and education system. What they all discovered was the justice of Arab claims.

Some of the writers saw the light suddenly, simply by meeting Arabs face-to-face and hearing their side of the story. Others were jolted upon discovering how prevalent are racism and violence in Israeli society. To give one example: In 1980, Alison Glick lived with a "typical" Israeli family while on a foreign exchange programme. The mother of the family, who worked in the Haifa industrial sector, often complained that she felt hot and dirty after her work, but wouldn't use the showers there, "because the Arabs use them" (p. 81). Alison also heard the neighbours jubilating when four Arabs were killed in a car accident. Later, living in the occupied territories during the intifada, she referred back to her experience among Israelis when pondering how anyone could shoot children, or throw tear gas in a maternity ward.

Some of the contributors saw the light slowly as part of a process of learning about the history of the Middle East, and seeing how the facts were often hidden or distorted. Some, like former congressman Paul Findley, were hounded by the Zionist lobby when they tried to argue for a more objective U.S. policy. Journalist Jerry Levin, who was held hostage in Lebanon for 11 months, returned to the U.S. to find that neither the State Department nor mainstream media welcomed his story, because he had the insight to see that his being taken hostage was a byproduct of misguided U.S. policy.

For many, the reality of the refugee camps was what opened their eyes. Dr. Clyde Farris writes of his impressions when he arrived in Amman in 1955, as the eight-year-old son of an agricultural adviser with the AID programme in Jordan: "Whatever the roots of my pro-Israel prejudices, they were soon to be challenged by the facts that could not be hidden by a smooth Israeli public relations machine. The Palestinian refugee camps (the ugly fruits of Israel's 'war of independence') littered Jordan in

## BOOK REVIEW

terrible squalor" (pp. 41-2). Jordan was also the gateway for another American doctor: John T. Dneige, M.D., who pays tribute to Dr. Hani Jumean (whom he had earlier met during medical training in the U.S.) and his wife, for helping him to understand Middle East realities. From Jordan, he went to the West Bank and saw the "unhealthy occupation": "As a physician who deals with statistics which represent individual human beings, I am frightened by the matter-of-fact attitude in America to the steadily rising toll of dead and wounded in the Israeli-occupied territories" (p. 192). Though written during the intifada, today's events unfortunately serve to confirm this view.

Most of the contributors to this volume are now working in various fields to promote a just peace in the Middle East, and a change in U.S. policy. Most are aware that this is a long, uphill battle.

By Sally Bland

## Weigert scores points, but misses the point

**My life with the Palestinians**  
Gideon Weigert  
Published by "The Jerusalem Times" Palestinian weekly, P.O. Box 20185, Jerusalem, 91200

"MY LIFE with the Palestinians" is the author's self-professed attempt to not only quench "a worldwide thirst for knowledge of the positive side of life with the Palestinians..." but also to help his fellow Israeli citizens "cross the bridge from generations of hatred and bloodshed to peaceful coexistence with Palestinians." However, at least on the latter count, he leaves much to be desired.

The book is a rather scattered collection of the author's personal experiences with the Palestinian people. These span nearly half a century of close friendships with Arab families of Jerusalem — some of whom "adopted" him during his studies — as well as bedouins of the Negev, and the Druze of Galilee. Some of these make warm and interesting reading, while others, like the chapter on "martyrs" make one cringe by an exclusive focus on intra-Palestinian violence and an absolute lack of any admission of Israeli atrocities that have been perpetrated relentlessly against the Palestinian Arab population.

The author, Gideon Weigert, is the former head of Arab affairs at the Jerusalem Post, and a permanent columnist to many Israeli Arab newspapers. He is considered a foremost Israeli authority on Palestinians and he indeed has impressive credentials. A Jewish immigrant from Germany, Weigert arrived in Mandatory Palestine in 1933. He quickly learnt the Arabic language and subsequently embarked

upon a programme of intensive learning in Arabic literature as well as Islamic religion and its history. In 1942 he was the first Jewish graduate of "Al-Nahda" Arab national colleges in Jerusalem.

The book has two clear tracks. The author's personal contacts with the Palestinians and bonds with his Arab friends which are rooted in the firm foundations of humanity. And then there is clear Zionist political propaganda of the worst sort.

On the personal level, the enchantment, fascination and a genuine love of "the young German-born Jew (who) was charmed by the simplicity, warm hospitality and kindness of this (Palestinian) society" is obvious. His accounts of his close integration into his foster families certainly depict the existence of a strong human bond that transcends religion and race and also reflects upon the faded Arab hospitality. His narration of his first encounter with Abu Ali, the story teller sheikh, makes fascinating reading and gives the reader a rare insight into the rich urban Arab culture of Jerusalem. As does the author's account of a Mawled evening in honour of the Prophet's birthday complete with Sufi rituals. The chapter on the author's Arab girlfriend, though rather cryptic to read, shows the existence of a transcendent bond between people.

However, all this rather sharply contrasts with a strong dose of subtle and not so subtle Zionist propaganda. The author talks about a case of Arab inhabitants of 30 villages on the border between Israel and the West Bank in 1949. These people were given a choice between staying under Israeli occupation and leaving their homes and lands and

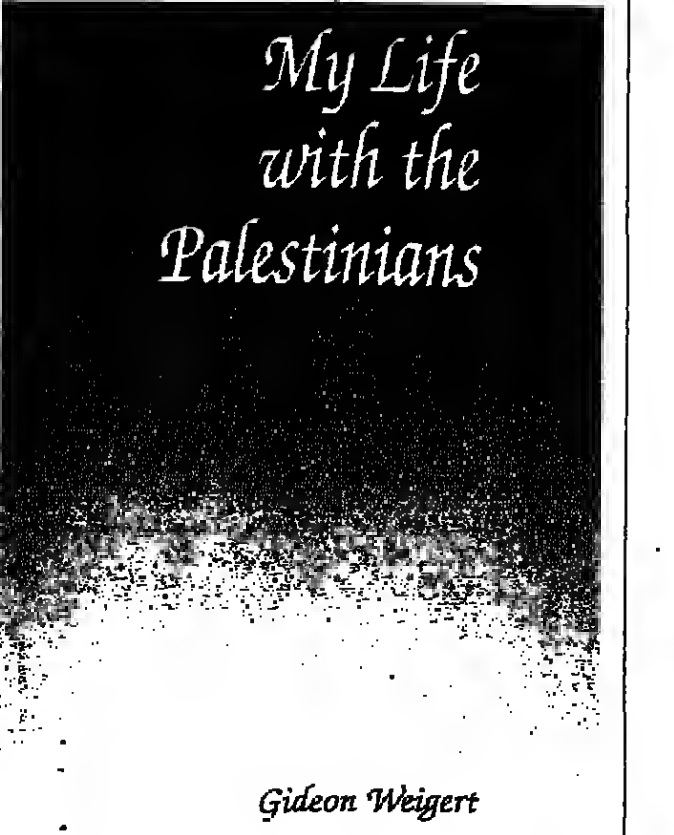
becoming refugees, and they chose to stay. The author naively attributes their action to the excellent Israeli treatment of the Arabs. The thought that these people were demonstrating the proof of their genuine attachment to and ownership of their land doesn't seem to cross the author's mind. His reference to the West Bank as an area "then occupied by Jordan" shows not only historical ignorance but also, perhaps complete lack of the understanding of the Arab position in the conflict. The author devotes a whole chapter to the "Sbubada, or the Martyrs of peace" and makes much of the fact that "hundreds of Palestinians" were killed or injured in intra-Palestinian violence. However, no mention is made of about a thousand Palestinians who were killed by the Israeli troops in the same period, another three thousand who were permanently crippled and several thousand more who suffered injuries and torture at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces. His reference to the West Bank city of Nablus as the capital of "Samaria" gives yet another clue about an absolute lack of sensitivity towards the Arab position.

The book on the whole leaves the reader with the feeling that despite having had many seemingly enriching experiences with the Palestinians, Mr. Weigert has learned nothing of their national aspirations and has no sympathy for their sufferings under an oppressive occupation regime.

Hasher Majoka

## BOOK REVIEW

My Life with the Palestinians



Gideon Weigert



100







# Simple treatment for slipped disc

By Petra Shair

I WOULD like to share with back pain sufferers the latest treatment for slipped disc complaints involving the cervical vertebrae, as well as the treatment of scars and deformities left after intervertebral disc operations.

Acute and chronic headaches as well as shoulder-arm pain are often caused by slipped disc of cervical vertebrae.

The neck is most often affected, with pain ascending to the back of the head, behind the ears (accompanied by tinnitus sometimes) as far as the forehead or the eyes, where often an unpleasant feeling of pressure is experienced. Pain in the upper jaw is rare but could also happen and in this case, the teeth are always considered to be the cause, with extraction of teeth resulting; pain radiating as far as the lower jaw is seldom.

In the majority of cases, the shoulder joints are affected. Sometimes it is only one joint and the arm can no longer be raised. Cortisone-based local anaesthetics are often injected into these joints to relieve pain.

Depending on which nerves are affected, unbearable pain extending into the arms may result. The intensity of pain is not necessarily the same in each arm. The pain may also be experienced only along the front or the back of the arm. The fingers or even the entire hand may also be affected. Swelling or numbness/tingling of one or more fingers may result, so a ring on the finger may no longer be easy to remove; writing may become difficult and it often becomes no longer possible to handle the fingertips together.

Pain extending as a hand in the chest wall, and in particular in the heart region, is common. This can lead to feelings of fear and apprehension or even to dyspnoea. Pain may begin in the heart region and then spread into the arms. In particular head or arm positions, the symptoms mentioned can sometimes be

intensified or reduced.

Additional indication that all these complaints are caused by disc in the cervical vertebrae is that symptoms such as pain, tingling, numbness, swelling, as well as having cold and pale hands at rest, are much more pronounced when working at a desk, on a computer or when watching television.

The majority of patients learn rapidly which movements and positions they should avoid in order to reduce the intensity of pain.

One-sided headache, nausea, tennis elbow and the so-called carpal tunnel syndrome can also be caused by the cervical vertebrae.

If small gelatine is squeezed into the vertebral canal, then inflammation and swelling of the neighbouring nerve roots is always to be expected. The complaints mentioned then transmit along the course of one or more nerves. If such a region of transmission is exactly followed, the location of the affected nerve roots can be easily determined. Costly computer tomography, nuclear magnetic resonance and X-rays are unnecessary.

In order to treat such complaints a catheter is introduced into the spinal canal and through it a saline solution is injected. This results in dehydration of the slipped disc and of the inflamed and oedematous nerve roots in the cervical vertebrae. The scars and deformities which have formed following an intervertebral disc operation also get dehydrated.

The pain usually disappears after only a few hours. It may reappear for a short time and is then far less intense than previously. Patients are, as a rule, free of pain following the second or third injection.

Patients can generally go about their daily life one week after treatment.

The writer, a German native married to a Jordanian, went through the above-described treatment in Germany.

## New antibiotic offered for approval

By Ransell Pierson  
Reuters

NEW YORK — Rhone-Poulenc Rorer Inc. (RPR) has said it had filed for approval of the first of a new kind of antibiotic designed to battle emerging "superbugs" resistant to traditional drugs.

It said it had filed a new drug application with the Food and Drug Administration in Washington for Synercid, the first injectable Streptogramin, a distinct class of antibiotics.

The company said it had been urged to move quickly on development of the drug.

The FDA has called us often to ask us to file (for drug approval), RPR spokesman Jean-Jacques Bienaime told Reuters.

Mr. Bienaime added that the unusual FDA overtures indicated the agency's serious concern about new strains of bacteria such as a type of staphylococcus that resists Vancomycin, the antibiotic of last resort.

Synercid is made up of two molecules that combine to stop bacteria from making essential proteins.

"Clinical evidence suggests that Synercid may be a new weapon for physicians in the battle against (some) bacteria, including resistant strains," Gary Shearman, senior vice president for pharmaceutical development at RPR, said in a statement.

Mr. Bienaime said the FDA had indicated it would give "fast-track" review to RPR's application to market Synercid —

meaning the agency's answer could come within six months rather than the usual 12.

Doctors have become increasingly concerned about drug-resistant bacteria. Although the bugs are no immediate threat to the general public, they have been showing up increasingly in hospital-bound patients who have been given batteries of antibiotics and whose immune systems are run down.

Two Americans in the past month, one in Michigan and one in New Jersey, have been identified with staphylococcus aureus that showed reduced susceptibility to Vancomycin. They had to get high doses of Vancomycin to fight off the hard to treat and deadly

bacteria.

Experts said it was inevitable that bacteria will mutate into drug-resistant forms, adding that no new class of antibiotic had been developed for 20 years.

Rhone is asking the FDA to license Synercid for use against infections including pneumonia, bacteremia and skin infections.

It could also be useful for patients allergic to other antibiotics including Penicillins, Glycopeptides and other drugs.

Late stage human trials of more than 1,000 volunteers showed Synercid was reasonably well tolerated, Rhone said.

## Pandemic's progress

Estimated total of AIDS cases since the disease began: 8.4m

African percentage of total: 77%

US: 7%

Asia: 7%

Rest of Americas: 6%

Europe: 3%

Oceania: 1%

At least 23m people are infected with HIV

Source: WHO estimates (figs rounded off)

## AIDS time-bomb in Russia spreads fear beyond borders

By Kester Kenn  
Klomegah

MOSCOW — Health experts fear an explosion in the number of HIV cases in Russia and neighbouring ex-Soviet republics because of high increases in prostitution, sexual promiscuity among the young and intravenous drug use.

The number of recorded Russian cases of the virus that can lead to AIDS is little over 2,000. But medical authorities estimate the actual figure could be fast approaching 100,000, with predictions of up to half a million by the end of 1998.

Heterosexual transmission and drug abuse are now the major factors behind the increase.

Up to now the presence of HIV has been blamed on foreign residents in Russia, especially African students.

However, economic and social changes in post-Communist Russia, combined with widespread ignorance of the dangers, have created fresh alarm.

Condoms are rarely used by Russian prostitutes, for instance, and with many now going to work abroad, the fear is that instead of importing HIV, the country and its neighbours could soon be exporting it.

"The changes in the former Soviet Union over the past years have created very favourable conditions (for the spread of the virus) as many women are turning to prostitution as a way of surviving the economic change," said Lev Khodakevich, Ukraine representative of the United Nations agency UNAIDS. "The rapid rise of ... intra-

Russians used to blame foreigners for the AIDS virus, but they are now being warned that economic upheaval and changing social habits are fuelling a dramatic spread of infection. And there are even worries that the country could now be exporting the problem.

venous drug use has also made Ukraine, Russia and Belarus particularly vulnerable."

In Russia, the Interior Ministry estimates the number of addicts injecting drugs at two million — 80 per cent of them males between the ages of 15 and 25.

Alex Gromyko, an adviser on HIV and AIDS, says Eastern Europe faces a catastrophic surge in HIV infection linked to shared syringes and unprotected sex. "This kind of unlimited sexual relations, unsafe sex, high prostitution, early-age sexual relations, is a determinant for the spread of the virus," he said.

Dr. Zdenek Jezek, head of the UNAIDS office in Moscow, said: "We are afraid of an epidemic." The difficult task now was trying to change the social environment. "It's high time to start prevention among drug users because it could spread very quickly into the general population."

To date, HIV-AIDS prevention, treatment and education programmes have been plagued by insufficient resources, and official responses have been erratic and — some would say — misdirected.

Moscow police were authorised last month to

Coverage of HIV on state television has had little impact on the younger generation. Most of the discussions in the media are couched in scientific language.

Attitudes towards sex indicate an increasingly promiscuous society. The daily newspaper, Moskovsky Komsomolets, published a survey of 3,000 people between the ages of 16 and 19. Half the young women polled did not rule out having an affair with a married man. 27 per cent were willing to have several partners, and 22 per cent were prepared to have sex for money.

Dr. Alexandre Fataev, a physician at a Moscow clinic who specialises in the psychological and social aspects of AIDS prevention, says three-quarters of teenagers are unaware that a condom should not be used more than once and many do not understand how sexual diseases are transmitted.

In an effort to supplement government education measures, an NGO, AIDS Infoshare, is providing public-library services with 3,000 books, 60,000 articles on computer disks, a video library and a newsletter. UNAIDS has also started to print 500,000 brochures to explain to drug users the risks of HIV infection and sharing syringes.

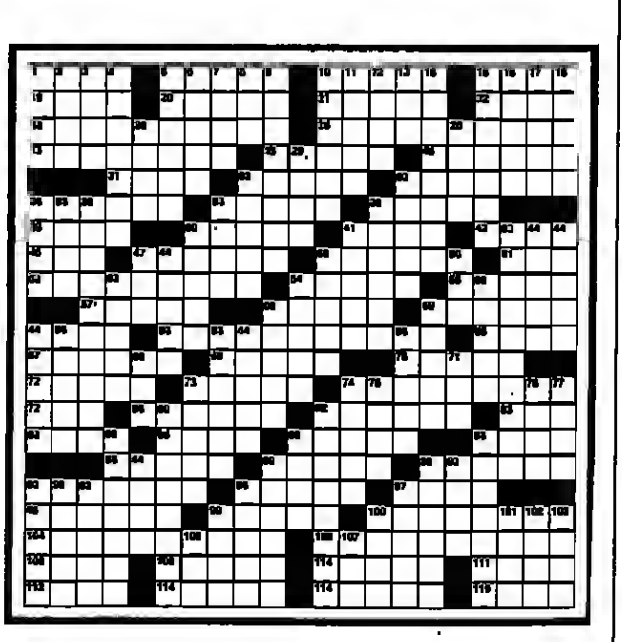
However, informing drug users about such risks has been hampered in Russia by the lack of an outreach tradition in which social workers can seek out and advise them in an informal environment — and in which they need not fear arrest — Gemini News.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

By David Johnson

- ACROSS**
1. Try —
  2. Local —
  3. Unpleasantly bitter
  4. Overlain
  5. Study course for
  6. Thick as TV
  7. Castle or tower
  8. Gassy path
  9. TPI
  10. Drip
  11. Narrow flag
  12. Tack
  13. Gassy gas
  14. Vary, fr
  15. Publish
  16. "Born"
  17. Something to
  18. SP
- DOWN**
1. Crank
  2. Thanks —
  3. Highway
  4. Address Furlong
  5. Study course for
  6. Metal valve
  7. Part of USA, abbr.
  8. Fly
  9. Signs a check
  10. High mountains
  11. Actor
  12. RSP
  13. Sign
  14. Toss
  15. Grow in
  16. Walker
  17. Ancient Celtic
  18. Joyce Carol —
  19. Wind

- ACROSS**
30. Theatrical
  31. —risky
  32. Ebb
  33. River's low
  34. Ebb
  35. Engagement
  36. Lagoon or Tidal
  37. Fragments
  38. Monarch
  39. Hammer
  40. Tropical trees
  41. Scurry
  42. Ruler, abbr.
  43. After awhile
  44. Letter back
  45. Floppy disks
  46. Advance
  47. ACP
  48. Ancient Roman
- DOWN**
20. Von Dornick
  21. Clutter
  22. Shine
  23. Quicker grey
  24. Study course for
  25. Rhythmic love
  26. Musical favorite
  27. (Burglar)
  28. Part of a
  29. Paraphrase
  30. PIP
  31. Royal court
  32. PIP
  33. Rhythmic
  34. Musical
  35. Day or one
  36. Practice for a
  37. O'Donnell of TV
  38. Health resort
  39. Foot and
  40. See Arthur album



Diagramless, 19 x 19

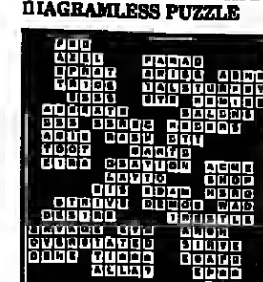
By Frances Burton

- ACROSS**
1. Aerial
  2. Shielded
  3. Change
  4. Flare away
  5. More green
  6. Cutting remark
  7. Heart Hugo novel
  8. Arab Jewry
  9. Polar states
  10. Certain history
  11. Work
  12. Act —
- DOWN**
1. Scams for cash
  2. Goodness of
  3. Record
  4. Flare away
  5. —Hunt, Ind.
  6. Inflated, in a way
  7. Sliding
  8. Desert transport
  9. Moment
  10. Shielded

SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY PUZZLE



SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S DIAGRAMLESS PUZZLE



## Chemical helps green tea beat wine in health stakes

WASHINGTON (R) — It may be too early for drinkers to rejoice over studies that show wine, especially red wine, is good for health.

A study published recently finds that green tea contains more antioxidants credited with helping to prevent cancer, heart disease and other illnesses.

Lester Mitscher of the University of Kansas and colleagues said they found that green tea contains high levels of Epigallocatechin Gallate, or EGCG.

EGCG was twice as powerful as Resveratrol, found in red wine, Dr. Mitscher told a meeting of the American Chemical Society in Las Vegas. They said tests on live cells showed it was much more effective than Vitamins C and E at protecting cells from damage.

"I'm not making any claims, but, used in conjunction with a healthful diet and exercise programme, it's like an insurance policy. It increases your odds of avoiding or postponing diseases associated with free radicals," Dr. Mitscher said in a statement.

Scientists believe antioxidants such as Vitamins A and E and plant molecules such as flavonoids prevent the cellular damage that leads to disease by reacting with and neutralising free radicals — electrically charged molecules — in the body.

Other types of tea also contain antioxidants, but at lower levels, Dr. Mitscher, who was working with a grant from a company that makes green tea supplements, said.

There are various other chemicals in plant-derived food that affect health. At least one study has shown that moderate intake of any kind of alcohol at all, not just red wine, can reduce the risk of heart disease.

Dr. Mitscher used a strain of bacteria that is prone to genetic mutations and tested a variety of antioxidants in

them, including Vitamins E and C, EGCG, and the common preservatives BHA and BHT.

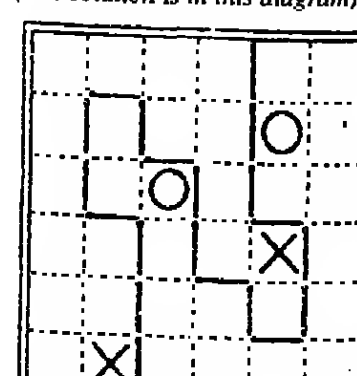
"It gives us for the first time a side-by-side comparison of just how powerful these things are," Dr. Mitscher said in a telephone interview.

"We have not done any animal studies because the literature is already well provided with that," he added, referring to studies showing that people in China and Japan who drink large amounts of green tea may be less prone to cancer and heart disease than those who do not.

## ANSWERS

### PUZZLES

NOUGHTS & CROSSES  
(The solution is in this diagram)



## Arab League meets towards global

From page 11

Arab League meeting towards global

Dr. Tawfik

Jordan's

negotiations

with

Israel

lift its

other

measures



# The tribe that finally hit the jackpot

By David Spanier

WE ALL thought we had heard the last of the Mohegans, but the famous Indian tribe is riding the range again. Today the Mohegans, reborn, have found a new vocation.

Instead of tracking wolves in the greenwoods of Connecticut, the Mohegans are scalping the palefaces across the green baize — to the tune of \$100m profit a year. It is a success story as unexpected as it is romantic.

"Before the night has come, have I lived to see the last warrior of the Mohegans," lamented James Fenimore Cooper in his stirring story of 1826. This fine phrase, which passed into modern folklore, no longer holds true.

Before the night has come, a thousand twinkling lights will be gleaming around the dome of the tribe's hi-tech casino. They shine down on thousands of tense, eager faces along the rows of slot machines and blackjack tables.

For the Mohegans (modern spelling) are alive and well and running their own casino. The Mohegan Sun, buzzing with excited gamblers, old and young, is only two hours 20 minutes' drive from New York. It is attracting between 20,000 and 25,000 visitors a day and expanding fast.

In its first year of operation since opening last October, the casino's gross revenue is likely to reach \$350m (estimates vary). "That yields a 30 per cent profit, but we hope to raise the figure to 32 per cent or 33 per cent next year," says executive vice president Bill Velardo. Financial hacking has come from a surprising source, Sol Kerzner, creator of Sun City in South Africa.

Kerzner, now out of South Africa, is a controversial figure. "All work and a lot of play makes money," is his motto. His group runs several tropical resorts, notably Paradise Island in the Bahamas, which was for years a dead end. His aim is to "blow away the customer" — dazzle him with entertainment value.

On the strength of a bandsake with the tribal leader, a partnership called Trading Cove Associates was set up to develop and manage the casino, and Kerzner put his "can do" policy into high gear. He helped the tribe float a \$175m bond on Wall Street, and provided £90m in investment and \$40 in equipment financing. The Mohegan Sun was up and running within a year of construction.

In return, Sun International Hotels receives a 40 per cent share of the profits over the next seven years. This might seem a large chunk, but the tribal leadership is content. "If they're getting \$400m, that means we are making a billion," says tribal chairman, Roland Harris.

Kerzner was finally granted a gaming licence in Connecticut in July 1996. The casino opened three months later.

A huge white dome, like a gigantic flying saucer, the building was formerly a factory for nuclear reactor components. Hidden below the main highway, the casino sits astride the reservation in a green valley overlooking the Thames River. It is big — 60,000 square feet with 2,700 slot machines and 180 gaming tables.

Built to a circular (wig-wam) design, the casino has a woodsy, outdoors feel about it, thanks to decorative use of timber and water and Indian motifs. The gambling floor is divided into four sections portraying spring, summer, autumn and winter, highlighting seasonal changes in Mohegan life. The whole structure, in the architect David Rockwell's formula, strives to combine nature with theatricality. One aspect of this is slot-machine games with names such as Cash Canoe and Mohegan Money Tree.

How does the remnant of a small tribe, long languishing in the backwoods of Connecticut, set about operating a modern casino? Answer: By joining forces with the paleface invaders. Top management has been hired from the American gaming industry.

As often happens with economic success, some opposition has been aroused. But the strength of feelings is less in the local community — the 5,000 full-time jobs in the enterprise were applied for many times over — than among the Mohegans' native American rivals, the Mashantucket Pequot. Ten miles down the road in the greenwoods lies the reservation of the Pequot tribe, the fox people. Foxwoods has established itself as the biggest and most profitable casino resort in the United States. Relations between the two tribes, in diplomatic parlance, are correct rather than cordial.

Their rivalry goes back a long way. The early Mohegans, known as the wolf people, attracted by the hunting and shellfish along the coast, became known as "invaders" to other tribes. But the English invasion was far more threatening. The pilgrims' ship was described as an animal with wings — "when it spoke it made a noise like thunder and smoke and fire came out of its mouth and it would swallow all the Indians up."

Around 1635, in the quarrel between the tribes over whether to resist or placate the European invaders, the Mohegans and the Pequots split. Uncas, leader of the Mohegans, sought to cooperate with the colonists and managed to preserve a measure of independence for his own people. The Pequots were massacred.

Now their tribal rivalry is being played out in a new form, in casino gambling. Foxwoods has proved such a gigantic success that it is outperforming even the glitzy palaces of Las Vegas. In comparison, the Mohegan Sun is a mere cub. "We think the two properties will support each other," says Velardo. "There is room for both of us to grow."

It is odd to find two such glittery money-making enterprises almost side by side, dividing the same rural patch of south-eastern Connecticut. Their success is founded on a simple fact of geography: 22 million people live within a radius of 150 miles.



Where do the Mohegans go from here? A mile outside the casino, on a little hill, stands the tribal museum. This is no more than a wooden hut but an extraordinary place, not least for the presence of Gladys Tantaquideon, a sprightly 98-year-old. She

is described as the tribe's medicine woman, a living repository of wisdom and tradition. She greets visitors to the museum, which is a jumble of mementoes, documents, old photos, feathers, tomahawks, utensils and many other curiosities, every day.

"This is home," says Jane Fawcett, simply but

with great feeling. As vice-chairperson of the tribal council, she has lived in the house next door all her life. She is far more involved with the culture of the Mohegans than the operation of the casino, though it is the latter that funds the health, education and welfare of her people.

Gladys Tantaquideon knows how to make a cordial from forest herbs and is wise in many precepts of nature, such as that when dogwoods bloom it is time to fish for shad. But her importance to the tribe is far greater than merely recalling folklore. Her collection of documents and records, including hundreds of postcards from Mohegan

people, played a decisive role in establishing the continuity of the tribe, in securing federal recognition in 1994. The Mohegans are here to stay.

The Independent

## Crown Prince says Jordan made major strides towards global integration

(Continued from page 1)

sector Prince Hassan said: "We have started privatising state-owned enterprises through a process that will increase their value to society and replacing public monopolies with private monopolies," adding that privatisation can succeed if enterprises operate on a commercial basis in a competitive environment.

Referring to aviation and its importance to the economy, Prince Hassan said the "global trend towards privatisation will inevitably include sectors like aviation, which is an area where services need to be managed within the global system."

Stating Jordan's objectives in this endeavour, Prince Hassan said: "Our economic policy aims at creating a dynamic market in which the role of the government is restricted to that of a catalyst. The government and the private sector must build a partnership based on mutual trust, and nourished through continued dialogue and interaction."

He said: "We believe that partnership with the private sector will lead to a sustainable economic development process. Our goal is to ensure that this process will reflect on all segments of society and improve the quality of life for all, for human dignity and the well-being of people is the objective of development."

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Bassam Saket addressed the meeting echoing the Crown Prince's words that the government was seeking to liberalise the national economy and noting that through reforms and sound policies Jordan has succeeded in achieving 6.5 per cent economic growth in terms of the gross domestic product over the past three years and reduced its external

debts from 191 per cent in 1990 to less than 90 per cent within five years.

Referring to the transport sector in Jordan, the minister said the government is giving it due attention in view of its vital importance to the economy noting that the government was embarking on expanding roads, railways, airports and seaports and above all it is modernising laws governing this vital sector.

More than 150 delegates representing 25 Arab and foreign countries are taking part in the meeting and discussing issues pertaining to aviation infrastructure, legal, financial and other issues related to air navigation, trade relations and airport services among others.

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and senior officials were present at the opening session.

## Arab League meeting achieved Arab consensus — Tarawneh

(Continued from page 1)

to the Arab World but expressed the Arab concern over the military exercises Turkey plans to hold with Israel and the United States.

Dr Tarawneh met Tuesday evening with Israel's Foreign Minister David Levy and reviewed with him the peace process in light of Mrs. Albright's recent visit to the

Middle East. He also voiced Jordan's condemnation of this week's shooting of two Israeli staff members in Amman.

Dr Tarawneh reiterated Jordan's keenness to see Israel resuming its peace negotiations with the Palestinians, the Lebanese and the Syrians and demanded that Israel lift its restrictions and other measures imposed on

the Palestinian people and implement the Oslo accord so that final status negotiations could start.

Dr Tarawneh also stressed that the success of the Doha conference depends on the improvement of the political atmosphere in the Middle East and progress in the peace process.

## Netanyahu vows to boost settlements; PNA cracks down on Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

Islamist leaders "lied about where the bombers came from," he said.

Mr. Abdul Rahim declined to comment on the resignation report and it was not known if Mr. Arafat had accepted his offer. But Mr. Abdul Rahim told AFP that Mr. Arafat announced at their meeting Tuesday night that if the suicide bombers were Hamas members from inside PNA areas, "the [Palestinian National] Authority will take all necessary measures to fight the terrorists."

At Israel's request, senior Israeli and Palestinian security officials and a representative of the CIA met overnight in the West Bank town of Ramallah to discuss action against Hamas.

Israeli security officials said they had banded their Palestinian counterparts an updated list of Palestinians they want detained for involvement in organising terrorist attacks.

They said that although four of the five suicide bombers had been identified, the support networks and leaders behind them remained intact and were

plotting further attacks from areas under PNA control.

The breakthrough in the bombing investigation coincided with the start of separate talks in Washington between U.S. mediators and Israeli and Palestinian negotiators.

The talks are to set the stage for a three-way meeting next week between U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Mahmoud Abbas — the highest level contacts between the two sides since the Jerusalem bombings.

Meanwhile, Israel Wednesday let an additional 4,000 Palestinian workers into the country in a further easing of sanctions imposed over a pair of suicide bombings blamed on Palestinian radicals, the army said.

Of the 4,000, half live in the Gaza Strip and half in the West Bank, an army spokesman said.

The move raises to more than 17,000 the number of Palestinians allowed into Israel to work, he added. Israel also raised the number of traders allowed in by 1,000 to 5,000.

## Easing Libya ban weakens U.N. on Israel — Cook

(Continued from page 1)

would only implement any easing with the permission of the Security Council.

League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meghuid said in Cairo that, since the ban was imposed by the council, Arab states would approach it with a unified stand for the United Nations to take measures to ease the embargo.

Responding to a question about Arab anger at Britain's reaction to the original legal decision, Mr. Cook said the "frustration is entirely on our side."

"What happened on the Pan Am jet was an act of mass murder," he said. "We have produced a

very detailed charge sheet which makes it plain why the two named individuals there have a case to answer and should face trial in court for that act of mass murder."

If anyone had a right to express frustration it was the British authorities, "who are unable to proceed with that trial because of the persistent refusal of the Libyan authorities to hand over the two accused men to stand trial," he said.

Referring to alternative trial venues suggested by Arab, African and non-aligned countries, the foreign secretary said: "There is no way in which a case could be heard outside Scotland under Scottish law. There

is no provision in Scottish law for a Scottish court to sit outside Scottish jurisdiction. Nor could we possibly take a Scottish jury to sit in a third country."

Mr. Cook expressed confidence that as fair a trial could be provided in Scotland as anywhere else in the world, saying Libyan and international observers could be present at all stages of court proceedings.

"It is now up to the Libyan authorities to carry out what is plainly their duty as a member of the international community," he added.

## Russia opposes 'monopoly' on Mideast peacemaking, slams Israel on deadlock

(Continued from page 1)

"The Middle East crisis is continuing and it will be very difficult to overcome, largely I think because of Israel's unconstructive position," Mr. Yeltsin told a group of reporters after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"The United States has some influence on Israel and should work here

more actively although we too should do more in this direction," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin rejected allegations by some Israeli politicians that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was to blame for recent bomb attacks in Israel which have deepened the crisis.

"One should not blame Mr. Arafat today for terrorist acts, that's not serious," he said.

He said that, as a co-sponsor, he supported the principle of negotiations based on a "land-for-peace" formula and that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had told him he wanted more Russian involvement in the peace process. "He told me he does not feel our presence as a co-sponsor," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Jordan Times  
Tel:  
684311-699634



# REPORTERS

## The Business of

### Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7748	0.6210
Swiss Fr.	0.5637	2.8573	0.3498
Japanese Yen	1.6102	2.8573	0.3498
French Fr.	0.0857	121.48	0.2359
Italian Lira	2.0083	1.4743	0.5139
US Dollar	0.7206	1.2772	0.4486
UK Pound	0.3556	1.0242	0.3583
US Dollar	0.5004	68.78	0.3106
US Franc	0.1677	0.2973	0.1940

### Middle East

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7504
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2972
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	1.0000
Israeli Dinar	2.65	1.8781	2.9483
Yemen Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0303
Kuwait Dinar	3.2862	2.3287	12.3247
Qatar Dinar	0.2722	0.1928	1.0211
Japanese 1000	0.55	0.4506	2.4401
US Dollar	0.2543	0.2084	1.1039

### Energy

Oil	Last	Revenue
Domestic	18.91	13.53
Foreign	19.85	19.68
Domestic	18.91	18.93
Foreign	17.90	17.96
US Gas	194.00	205.00

### Currents

SA Riyal
AE Dirham
KW Dinar
OM Dinar
CY Pound


### Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz s)	322.7	323.2
Silver (oz s)	4.73	4.75
Platinum (oz s)	438	441
AL (3 Months)	1638	1639
AL (3 Months)	2197	2199
AL (3 Months)	1450	1451
AL (3 Months)	646	649
AL (3 Months)	6448	6455

### Prices

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## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Private hospitals need administrative specialists, medical technology experts

**\*\* THE HIGH price of medicines and expensive medical treatment at private hospitals are considered to be the big problem for the people and the hospitals as well.** Mahmoud Al Taher, the president of the Private Hospitals' Society, said in an interview. He attributed that to the most advanced technological equipment found at the private hospitals.

"The cost of the equipment and the continued need to maintain them reflect on the cost of treatment," Dr. Taher said noting that most of the medical supplies are imported. The president of the society called for raising the efficiency of bed occupancy rates at private hospitals as such a rate at present averages about 60 per cent. "By raising the rate to 80 per cent, the sector will be given added support and will save the cost of building and equipping a new hospital with an 800-bed capacity," Dr. Taher said.

He continued by pointing out that despite the tremendous efforts exerted by the private hospital to serve Jordan and boost the Kingdom's international image in the medical sphere, the private hospitals suffer from a major lack of administrative experience. He specifically mentioned hospital administration and planning of medical budgets.

Dr. Taher concluded by highlighting also the need for Jordanian expertise in medical technology as there are very few persons who qualify as such (Al Arab Al Yawm).

### British businessmen begin visit today

**\*\* THE BIRMINGHAM Chamber of Commerce and Industry will lead a mission of British businessmen to Jordan from Sept. 25 to Sept. 30.** The group will include senior representatives from five companies specialised in the manufacturing of water

measures, equipment for handling and packaging of solid material, electric installation equipment, swimming pool equipment, as well as a company specialised in designing, operating and maintaining infrastructure activities in various fields.

Members of the mission will hold working meetings with Jordanian businessmen as well as visits to Amman Industrial Estate in Sahab and the Investment Promotion Corporation.

This is the second British trade mission to visit Amman this month. The first was organised by the Welsh Office and included representatives from seven British companies. The Commercial Section at the British embassy is currently busy preparing for a larger mission that will be led by the British minister of construction early next month.

### Italian Trade Commission selects eight Jordanians for training course

**\*\* THE ITALIAN Trade Commission, under the patronage of the Italian embassy and in cooperation with Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) has selected eight Jordanians to attend a training course in Italy on management, international marketing and export promotion.**

The aim of the course, which will also be attended by seven Palestinians and nine Egyptians, is to give an opening into the Italian economic and business world, providing opportunities for young managers and entrepreneurs to initiate joint-ventures, trade and new business developments with Italian counterparts.

The course includes six weeks developing topics related to international trade, export marketing and techniques, etc., and two weeks visiting plants, companies, trade associations and trade fairs.

The Italian Trade Commission covers all the costs referred to travel, study tours, accommodation, tuition fees, insurance and pocket money.

## Israel thanks World Bank, IMF for help to Palestinian economy

**HONG KONG (AFP) — Israel Wednesday thanked the World Bank and IMF for their aid to the Palestinian economy, saying it hoped their efforts would not be undermined by terrorism.**

"In particular I would like to commend their efforts to assist the incipient Palestinian economy, and thereby promote peace," Israeli Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman told the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and

World Bank here.

"We hope that these efforts will not be undermined by recurring acts of terrorism" which "endanger the peace process and bring devastation to the Palestinians and their economy," he said.

"We continue to seek peace and security with the Palestinian(s) and with all other countries in the region."

He stressed that the slowdown in Israel's growth rate since the middle of last year "is not a recession," saying

the economy "has the potential for an even higher growth rate than the indicators show."

Mr. Neeman said his government has acted to bring the economy back on track, although "it is not easy to implement a restrictive policy during a time of slower economic growth."

"However, we are aware that there are times when we must exercise restraint in the short-term in order to benefit in the long-term."

## Ministry of Health borrows JD3 million

**AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi has called on the Cabinet to levy a one fil tax on each medical prescription and each cigarette box, a report in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i said Wednesday.** Dr. Kurdi said the new tax, which is similar to the one fil rural electrification tax collected with the monthly electricity bill, will be used to improve medical services and medical care.

Dr. Kurdi said the ministry has borrowed JD3 million from the Social Security Corporation to partly settle the ministry's bill for drug stores and drug suppliers.

The ministry will also allocate JD2.5 million from its current budget to settle the remaining balance of its debt, totalling JD11.5 million, to drug stores and medicine suppliers within the next 10 days.

Dr. Kurdi said the ministry's debt to drug stores and suppliers amounts to JD11.5 million, rather than JD20 million as mentioned by drug stores.

Dr. Kurdi attributed the shortage of medicines at the Ministry of Health stores to the shortage of cash liquidity and to the excessive use of prescriptions and drugs.

## IMF chief says Asia turbulence underscores risks of global economy

**HONG KONG (AFP) — IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus warned Tuesday that turbulence sweeping South East Asian financial markets underscored the new risks and requirements of a globalised world economy.**

Mr. Camdessus told annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that the crisis that emerged in Thailand was "disturbing ... because it was foreseen and preventable, but still struck with full force."

Pressure on Thailand's baht, intermittent in 1996, increased and "in the absence of a sufficiently

comprehensive set of measures, the crisis broke," spreading anxiety to other countries in the region.

The decision to free the baht from its dollar link on July 2 sent the currency plunging and necessitated a \$17.2 billion IMF-brokered rescue as Thai financial markets came under attack.

Mr. Camdessus congratulated Thai authorities for the "courage" to embark on "a bold and comprehensive programme that goes to the heart of market concerns about large external deficits and troubled financial institutions."

"Naturally it will take time and forceful action by

the authorities to restore market confidence," he told the participants.

He said the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, which were struck by the financial turbulence, had taken measures to address their problems and he expected the economies to emerge "stronger than before."

Mr. Camdessus said countries seeking to tap global capital markets must pursue sound and transparent policies that instill confidence and respect the signals the markets provide.

For Asia, the priority should be "the pressing business of strengthening

current account positions and ensuring financial sector soundness, rather than to spurring growth prematurely."

For Europe as it heads towards economic and monetary union, reform of social security systems and labour and product markets should be given as much urgency as setting fiscal consolidation targets, he said.

Mr. Camdessus reported to the boards of governors of the World Bank and the IMF that the global environment was "generally favourable."

He said global inflation remained subdued, fiscal deficits were being reduced

in many countries, exchange rates among major currencies "appear to be consistent with economic fundamentals," and world economy was expanding 4.25 per cent in 1997 and 1998 after growth of 4.0 per cent last year.

Progress towards economic monetary union in Europe was to be applauded.

But there were problems in achieving sustainable growth "that results in a permanent reduction in poverty and greater equality of economic opportunity, and is respectful of national cultures and traditions," Mr. Camdessus said.

He cited labour market problems in Europe, fragile banking systems and "persistent inequalities" in economic opportunities in parts of Asia and Latin America, "but not exclusively there."

Inefficient use of public resources perpetuated poverty and impeded development in "all to many" countries.

There was also the risk of inflation picking up again in economies "where output is pressing upon capacity."

He said there was a need for international solidarity, particularly for Africa and the heavily indebted poor countries and the least developed countries, which while performing better needed "a powerful boost towards an early, safe and full integration into the world economy" if the poorest are not to be marginalised.

Mr. Camdessus said the lesson to be drawn from the recent developments in South East Asia was "not about the risks of globalisation — and still less about demonising the markets — but rather about the importance of good citizenship 'when tapping them.'"

"Indeed, countries cannot compete for the blessings of the global capital markets and refuse their disciplines," he said.

Urging "an orderly liberalisation of capital markets," Mr. Camdessus encouraged countries to "remove controls in a way that supports the drive towards sustainable macroeconomic policies, strong monetary and financial sectors and lasting liberalisation."

REUTERS

REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7740	0.6210	1.4984	120.33	1.3877	1732.20	1.9986	5.9627
DE Mark	0.5637	-	0.3499	0.8221	67.79	0.7820	1.1258	3.3580	-
GB Sterling	1.6102	2.8573	-	2.3492	193.73	2.2345	2787.80	3.2165	9.5984
JP Franc	0.6857	121.48	0.4250	-	82.47	0.9505	1186.03	136.87	4.0809
CH Yen	0.0063	1.4743	0.5159	1.2128	-	1.1535	14.38	168.02	4.9537
CA Dollar	0.7208	1.2772	0.4486	1.0539	1.15	-	1247.54	1.4380	4.2890
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0242	0.3583	0.0843	1441.75	0.8012	-	11.53	3.4407
NL Guilder	0.5004	88.78	0.3106	73.06	60.14	0.8944	866.03	-	2.9823
FR Franc	0.1877	0.2973	0.1040	24.403	20.14	0.2328	33.47	33.4700	-


Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7080	3.7504	0.3770	3.6402	0.3043	3.6728	1537.00	3.3975
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	5.2972	0.5325	5.1415	0.4298	5.1877	2170.90	4.7987
Saudi Riyal	0.2668	0.1888	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0811	0.98	409.82	0.9059
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8781	9.9485	-	9.96	0.8072	9.74	4077.14	8.0124
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0303	-	0.0838	1.01	422.23	0.9333	-
Kuwait Dinar	3.2862	2.3267	12.3247	1.2388	11.98	-	12.07	5050.94	0.8333
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0211	0.1028	0.9911	0.0829	-	418.47	0.9250
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4606	2.4401	0.2453	2.3684	0.1980	2.3897	-	2.2105
Egyptian	0.2943	0.2084	1.1039	0.1110	1.0714	0.0898	1.0811	492.39	-

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	18.91	18.93
W. Texas	19.85	19.88
Bonny	18.91	18.93
Dubai	17.80	17.96
U.L. Gas	194.00	200.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4732	0.1856	0.3894	32.077
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4831	0.1891	0.3978	32.754
KW Dinar	3.2862	5.8309	2.0408	4.7885	395.26
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.7081	1.6474	3.873	319.08
CY Pound	1.9011	3.3758	1.1809	2.7759	228.81

Metal Prices			
Metal	Bid	Offer	
Gold (oz's)	322.7	323.2	
Silver (oz's)	473	475	
Platinum (oz's)	438	441	
CU (3 Months)	1638	1639	
AL (3 Months)	2107	2109	
Zinc (3 Months)	1430	1431	
Lead (3 Months)	648	649	
NI (3 Months)	6445	6455	

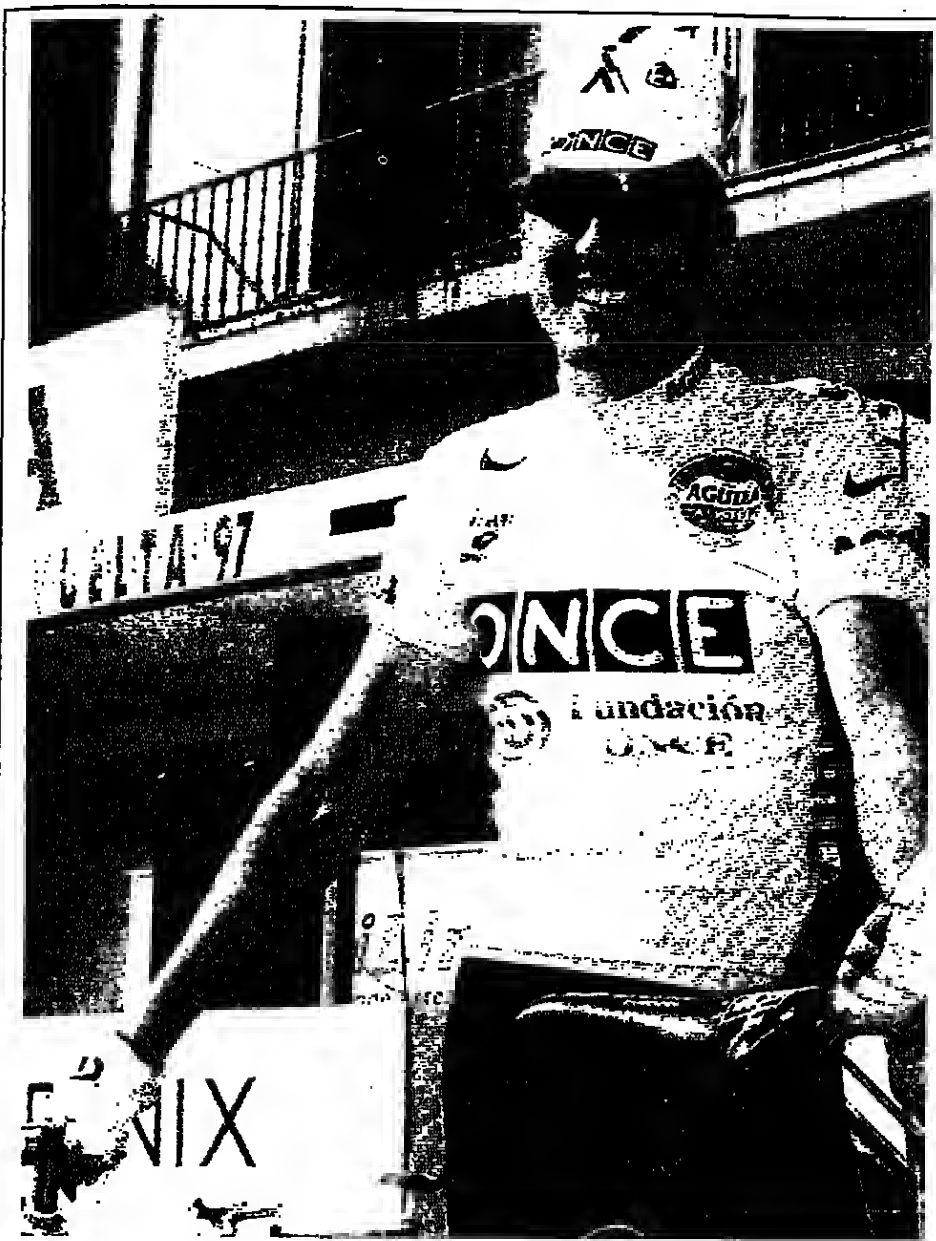
Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Period	1	3	6	9	12	18	24	36	48
Currency	Month	Months	Months	Months	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year
USD	5.56	5.58	5.58	5.58	5.75	5.84	-	-	-
GBP	7.05	7.06	7.37	7.34	7.41	-	-	-	-
JPY	0.42	0.42	0.44	0.50	0.46	-	-	-	-
DEM	3.11	3.23	3.19	3.31	3.44	-	-	-	-
FRF	3.21	3.29	3.36	3.52	3.60	-	-	-	-
CHF	1.28	1.34	1.54	1.88	1.78	-	-	-	-
ITL	6.40	6.24	6.09	5.80	5.60	-	-	-	-

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET												
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TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179												
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 24/09/1997												
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	R / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
346,000	241,500	ARAB BANK	15.4	0.00	6	340	114340	336.00	335.00	1.00		
2,340	1,680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	11.2	0.00	41	50232	97018	1.96	1.92	0.04		
3,600	2,760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.3	0.00	2	5500	16500	3.00	3.00	-		
1,210	890	WID. EAST INV. BK.	60.4	0.00	8	11250	10338	0.92	0.92	-		
2,480	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.2	0.00	10	1046	1046	1.32	1.33	0.01		
5,200	4,600	THE HOUSING BK.	14.8	0.00	3	526	2602	4.97	4.95	0.02		
4,180	2,440	JOR. KUWAIT BANK	11.1	0.00	6	1612	5060	3.14	3.14	-		
1,050	740	JOR. CHIP BANK	4.5	9.33	10	16250	12185	0.75	0.75	-		
4,050	3,520	THE ISLAMIC BANK	15.3	0.00	20	4640	17488	3.77	3.76	0.01		
1,620	1,110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	P	0.00	1	1000	1200	1.20	1.20	-		
3,800	3,080	JOR. INV. FTM. BANK	23.3	0.00	13	5263	18464	3.45	3.62	0.17		
2,200	890	SEIT. AL-HAL (SEITINA)	6	16.30	5	1000	926	0.93	0.92	0.01		
5,150	4,240	ARAB BANKING CO.	20.5	0.00	1	1000	4250	4.24	4.25	0.01		
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 239.44	CHG: -0.26	118	99063	301417					
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 115.15	CHG: 0.00	1	4	22					
1,880	1,550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.3	5.18	152	172639	326557	1.84	1.93	0.09		
1,050	5,400	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.4	3.23	2	150	510	3.27	3.43	0.16		
3,100	2,450	NHHE MINERALS	15.4	5.11	2	940	2867	2.95	3.05	0.10		
6,100	4,200	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	13.1	4.69	1	1500	1917	4.40	4.26	0.14		
1,550	740	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	12	15800	21014	1.33	1.33	-		
1,010	820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.9	6.45	3	1300	1209	0.92	0.93	0.01		
1,810	480	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	27.2	0.00	1	200	106	0.51	0.53	0.02		
1,790	1,150	NATL. EAST HOTELS	18.7	0.00	3	2500	3075	1.23	1.23	-		
3,720	2,890	ARAB INTL. INV. SEC.	9.2	0.00	50	266400	932400	3.40	3.52	0.12		
2,230	1,630	UNIFIED CO.	8.4	6.25	1	250	440	1.75	1.76	0.01		
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 110.90	CHG: +0.83	227	460629	1290099					
4,450	3,220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	25.9	2.86	12	70570	270671	3.83	3.84	0.01		
7,050	5,400	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.4	3.23	5	79350	488023	6.10	6.20	0.10		
11,000	9,070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.6	8.15	18	5150	56107	10.85	10.90	0.05		
3,260	1,620	INDUSTRIAL COM. AGR.	9	0.00	3	865	606	1.66	1.66	-		
4,700	1,040	ARAB PHARM. HAY	10.6	4.19	20	6139	28269	4.62	4.58	0.03		
1,790	1,270	JOR. PIPES MANUFCT.	15.7	6.30	3	3650	4636	1.27	1.27	-		
1,480	1,050	RAPHA INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	1	150	162	1.10	1.08	0.02		
3,850	2,220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	10.0	9.99	1	200	258	2.48	2.55	0.07		
960	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	11.6	0.00	74	71000	38453	0.54	0.55	0.01		
1,250	1,000	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	30.6	0.00	13	4100	4080	1.01	1.00	0.01		
1,420	790	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	1	100	90	0.80	0.80	-		
710	510	NATIONAL UNDS.	9	0.00	53	51000	28979	0.54	0.57	0.03		
1,200	510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	9	3390	1815	0.54	0.55	0.01		
940	530	JOR. ROCKWELL INDUS.	9	0.00	1	500	325	0.64	0.65	0.01		
2,980	1,480	UNIV. CHRM. INDUS.	13.3	6.75	15	370	370	1.48	1.48	-		
1,670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.0	0.26	7	1732	2329	1.33	1.33	-		
1,880	1,080	UNIV. MODERN INDUS.	P	0.21	9	3300	4125	1.25	1.25	-		
1,460	900	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	11.2	11.11	6	1650	1485	0.90	0.90	-		
1,620	1,300	NATL. OILFIELD	14.3	0.00	9	36900	9714	1.40	1.40	-		
1,070	810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.4	0.00	5	5100	4284	0.84	0.84	-		
1,330	1,080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.2	0.00	8	2750	3098	1.14	1.13	0.01		
1,200	860	UNION CR. & VEG.	50.0	0.00	12	54900	61233	1.13	1.10	0.03		
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 122.42	CHG: +0.74	271	401806	1056546					
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 175.17	CHG: +0.16	617	961502	2648084					
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 24/09/1997												
630	300	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	2	500	155	0.31	0.31	-		
650	380	JOR. TRADE FAC.	10.9	0.00	12	8600	3516	0.41	0.41	-		
780	660	UNION INV. 50T	9	0.00	16	41138	9461	0.74	0.73	0.01		
570	360	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	1	23100	9019	0.40	0.39	0.01		
950	610	AL-DAMIYIA 75T	70.1	0.00	6	14050	6744	0.74	0.73	0.01		
540	380	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	4.1	0.00	2	100	193	0.64	0.64	-		
730	580	HIGEST PAPER, 75T	2	0.00	2	1500	775	0.68	0.66	0.02		
730	580	HIGEST PAPER, 85T	2	0.00	21	34750	10773	0.30	0.31	0.01		
550	290	INDUS. ENRG.	9	0.00	6	5800	5800	0.66	0.66	-		
820	590	NATL. POULTRY	98.8	0.00	11	8300	3818	0.71	0.71	-		
1,000	690	NATL. ALUMINUM, 75T	42.4	0.00	1	200	176	0.84	0.88	0.04		
1,200	720	ARAB INTL. FOOD FACT.	7.6	16.13	5	4250	2595	0.62	0.62	-		
860	580	NIG. EAST COMPLEX										
GRAND TOTAL					130	225889	105352					









Yellow jersey holder Swiss Alex Zuelle smiles as he makes a thumbs-up sign at the start of the 184km 18th stage of the Tour of Spain cycling race (Reuters photo)

## Spurs set to swoop for Ravanelli

LONDON (AFP) — Middlesbrough's unsettled Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli is being linked with a move to Tottenham, who he would join on a loan deal to help the London club through its current injury crisis.

Boro manager Bryan Robson confirmed on Wednesday that there has been fresh interest in the former Juventus ace.

"We had a meeting with Fabrizio earlier in the week. A couple of clubs are interested in him. Fabrizio will talk with them and then a decision will be made," said Robson.

British newspapers are full of speculation linking Ravanelli with Spurs and Tottenham boss Gerry Francis has not denied his interest in the silver-haired striker, back in Italy this week after renewed talks about his future.

Robson has already made it clear the Italian does not figure in his plans for the Teesiders.

And Francis said: "We have inquiries lodged with several clubs because our situation with front-players has become critical."

"I never talk about other clubs' players but it may be important for us to get somebody in quickly to tide us over until people like Les Ferdinand, Steffen Iversen are ready to come back from injuries."

"It is not only them. Rory Allen and Paul McVeigh are also injured and Chris Armstrong has been out a long time. We would like to do something, maybe a loan deal."

"The alternative is going down into the First Division because we are not allowed to loan players from another Premier League club. There are not exactly a million quality strikers available."

If Spurs land Ravanelli on loan they could be given the option of keeping him permanently after an initial three-month period.

And Middlesbrough, now desperate to offload the striker who scored 31 goals for them last season but has only rarely been seen since they were relegated at the end of last season, could be receptive to such a suggestion.

Spurs' striker situation is desperate after only one goal in their last four League games.

## Women's Basketball Championship Orthodoxi meet Ahli as 2nd round opens Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The second round of the Kingdom's Women's Basketball Championship opens Friday when leaders Al Orthodoxi meet Al Ahli hoping to continue their winning streak and regain the title they last won in 1994.

Al Orthodoxi, who had finished third for the past two seasons, won both first round matches defeating Al Ahli 67-50. They later got an added boost after scoring an 89-36 win over titleholders Al Jazireh sending a clear message that they are serious about getting back the title.

Although Al Ahli do not seem able to win the title this year, their 69-45 win over Al Jazireh was a clear indication that the titleholders would not be able to retain their crown.

First round results show that Al Orthodoxi have the clear upper hand to win the three-team event.

While onlookers expected Al Jazireh to rebound after their first defeat, the team seems to have been abandoned by almost all of its veteran players and are not expected to display a different form in the second round.

Adding to the fact that the absence of many players has taken its toll, the team has evidently not prepared seriously for the competition resigning to the fact that they cannot win the title this year.

The three competing teams are mostly made up of national team players who took part in the Pan-Arab Games in July in addition to the younger players on the teams.

Al Jazireh are missing most of their original lineup for a host of personal reasons.

The team is led by Rana Hussein and includes Hala Ghattas and a younger lineup in the surprising absence of Hala Muheisen, Tala Al Mauge, Rania Dajani, Indeirah Qaseisieh and Tamara Khadra — all key national team players the last three of which also failed to show up for the national teams matches at the Pan-Arab Games.

Al Orthodoxi might seem to have the most coherent and prepared lineup this year after having played as juniors for the past three seasons and gaining experience from their national team matches. The players also had training matches in Syria recently.

The team includes Hind Ghouri, Zina Farah, Luma Abu Judum, Hala Khalaf and Lubna Masri.

Al Ahli have been training under new coach Raffi Cholukyan after a makeover in the club's basketball management and the handing of the reins to new officials hoping to bring back the club's glorious basketball achievements.

The team includes Sirsa Nagahway, Sirsa Ahaza, Ruwa Hijazi, Zein Shasha and Teryana Qardan.

## Jordanian soccer celebrates FIFA Fair Play Day

By Roufan Nahhas  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In response to a request by soccer's world governing body FIFA of designating a Fair Play Day, Jordan joined 197 countries in celebration, raising the yellow and blue flag before the beginning of matches this week.

FIFA chose those days as the first ever world Fair Play Day as it fell in the busiest period of soccer world-wide and also coincided with the final of the FIFA Under-17 World Cup Championship which took place in Egypt.

Now, FIFA is planning to promote the idea of having a Fair Play Day as a yearly celebration.

This week, Fair Play Day was the centre of soccer attention all around the world.

In England, children carried oversized FIFA Fair Play flags at all the Premier League matches.

In Germany, children walked hand-in-hand with the players at all the Bundesliga matches.

In Nigeria, celebrations went to schools with seminars and a national essay writing competition on



the theme of Fair Play. In Chile, teams winning matches will stand to applaud their beaten opponents.

An exception was in Italy as FIFA's Fair Play Day went unnoticed, with the booing, hacking and elbowing carried out as usual.

Jordan Football Association (JFA) joined the world in marking the Fair Play Day here in the Kingdom.

"Jordanian soccer being part of the sporting world, celebrated this day in Amman as part of the world's celebrations," JFA Technical Committee member Bassam Haroun told the Jordan Times.

The JFA organised matches and lectures to introduce the Fair Play Day concept to athletes of the Kingdom. "We had several matches during the two-day cel-

ebrations, including an opening ceremony and lectures," Dr. Haroun said.

Several schools in Amman gave their students a clear picture of the idea.

"We have asked schools to promote the idea of Fair Play Day in their morning sessions with posters to be hanged at school's premises," he said.

## Fulham after Keegan Thrust SCC breaks world land-speed record ... unofficially

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Thrust SCC, equipped with two Rolls Royce engines, broke its own land-speed record on Tuesday by hitting 1,157,307 kilometres (719,137 miles) per hour in Nevada's Black Rock desert.

Its speed peaked at 1,160,305 kilometres (721 miles) per hour, the British team doing the test said in its Internet site.

But the speed will not be considered a real record since the vehicle must set the speed record on the 1.6 kilometre (one mile) track and then return over the same track the other direction. The two tests must be completed within an hour, something which has not happened.

The vehicle hit 1,107,103 kilometres (687,941 miles) per hour on the 1.6 kilo-

metre (one mile) Monday but the return test was not done then either.

Promoters say their goal is to break the sound barrier.

The head of the British team, Richard Noble, 51, set the current land speed record on October 4, 1983 when he went 1,019.44 kilometres (633,468 miles) per hour.

Noble is not driving on this test but has turned the job over to Andy Green, a 35-year-old jet fighter pilot in the Royal Air Force.

A second team, "Spirit of America," is also at Black Rock trying to break Noble's record. Its head, Craig Breedlove, has broken three speed records.

## 'Violent' Arsenal under FA scrutiny

LONDON (AFP) — Arsenal, who have the worst disciplinary record in the English Premiership, have been told by the Football Association (FA) that they have until Christmas to clean up their act.

The Gunners finished bottom of last season's Fair Play League and their start to this campaign has been just as poor, with 18 bookings plus a further three the UEFA Cup.

With the season less than two months old, FA chiefs are looking to address the problem early on.

If Arsenal, who have always had a reputation as a no-nonsense, physical team, continue to collect cards at the current rate, manager Arsene Wenger could find himself sitting

before the authorities before the new year.

An FA official confirmed Wednesday the authorities will look at Arsenal's disciplinary record at Christmas and, if necessary, would invite the club to discuss the situation.

Last season Arsenal's roll of shame consisted of 82 yellow cards and five red ones and on Tuesday they were branded "violent" by Chelsea defender Frank Leboeuf, who was sent off in Sunday's 3-2 defeat by the Gunners.

Leboeuf said: "Arsenal are the toughest in the Premiership. Far worse than Wimbledon. They are five players but are physical now and allowed to get away with things. Too many illegal tackles and

tactics."

Wenger hit back: "I never tell any one of my players to go and kick an opponent. If you don't show competitive spirit you will lose games, but if you just want to fight you will also lose. "We are not a dirty side and shouldn't, and will not, change the way we play."

Arsenal are second in the Premiership, two points behind Manchester United, and would go top tonight if they beat West Ham at Highbury and United lose at home to Chelsea.

### A Furnished Apartment For Rent

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If interested, call Tel: 825509 (between 8:00 a.m.-14:00 p.m.). After that call Tel: 840550.

### The Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities' Celebrations on the occasion of the World Tourism Day

On the occasion of the World Tourism Day on Sept. 27, 1997, the Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities will organise a Fire Works' Show on Friday 26th of Sept. 1997, at 7:45 p.m. at the Amman Citadel.

Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities

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**The Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities' Celebrations on the occasion of the World Tourism Day**  
On the occasion of the World Tourism Day on Sept. 27, 1997, the Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities will inaugurate the Odeon Theatre in Amman adjacent to the Roman Amphitheatre.  
On this occasion the Ministry will organise a musical performance on Friday 26th of Sept. 1997, at 8:00 p.m. at the Odeon Theatre.  
Buses will be available at 7:00 p.m. in front of Philadelphia Hotel to convey guests to the festival's location.  
A parking lot is available behind Amman Municipality's main Library along the main street of the Hashemite Court for other guests who wish to bring their own cars.  
Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities

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Furnished one-bedroom flat-cozy and in a quiet area - with central heating and telephone. Located in Jabal Amman, 7th Circle, near the Royal Automobile Club.  
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Please call Tel.: 683110, 701280.

**AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL**  
will host its  
**FIFTH ABS ANNUAL CHARITY FUNFAIR**  
The fair will be an all day event which will be held in the school on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 1997, from 10 am till 5 pm.  
The fair will feature various games, prizes, live performances, raffle tickets, roller blading, varieties of food, fashion shows & exhibits of various products.  
All proceeds will go to the Jordanian Society for Therapeutic Riding, Al Hussein Society for the Handicapped, YMCA & other charity centres.  
Entrance fee: JD 1

**JORDAN TIMES**  
FAX: 696183

**THE ITALIAN EMBASSY ANNOUNCES**  
THE STARTING OF ITALIAN CLASSES ON 4 OCTOBER 1997, AT "TERRA SANTA COLLEGE" IN JABAL LWEIBDEH, AMMAN.  
Classes on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and from 6 to 7:30 p.m.  
Fees: JD30 (4 October-10 December 1997)  
REGISTRATION: TERRA SANTA COLLEGE (only) on September 24, 27, 29 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (You can meet your teachers).  
INFORMATION: Italian Embassy (Tel. 638185)



